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LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1840.

REVIEWS

Lives of the Queens of England, from the Norman Conquest, with Anecdotes of their Court.
By Agnes Strickland. Vol. I. Colburn.

Miss Strickland states in her preface that "an announcement" of this work appeared in August 1837, under its original title of 'Historical Memoirs of the Queens of England';—but that "a long and dangerous illness delayed the progress of the first series, and meantime the title was appropriated by another writer." With all respect for Miss Strickland, this is a most unfair statement, or, rather, a statement tending to create an unfair prejudice against Miss Lawrance, whose laborious and interesting Memoirs are here referred to. Miss Strickland's work was, it is admitted, first announced when the accession of Her Majesty must have suggested the subject as an *ad captandum* one to many persons, and the first volume is only now published—after an interval long enough to have enabled any writer of ordinary facility to have compiled half-a-dozen volumes. But Miss Lawrance, as we stated when called on to announce Miss Strickland's work as in preparation (Sept. 1837, *Athen.* No. 515), had been long engaged on her Memoirs, and for years when the accession of a female sovereign was a contingency in remote distance. So early as 1831, on the publication of Mrs. Jameson's 'Female Sovereigns,' we heard that Miss Lawrance was writing 'Memoirs of the Queens of England,'—subsequently, in 1832 we believe, but certainly when the Ettrick Shepherd was in London, for he and twenty other literary persons were present, this report was confirmed to us by Miss Lawrance herself. Five years later, Her Majesty ascended the throne, and it is manifest that this event, which suggested to the one lady the right moment for announcing such a work as in preparation, suggested to the other the right time for publication; and as the first volume of Miss Lawrance's Memoirs was published in December 1837, it is reasonable to believe that it must have been in the hands of the printer, certainly prepared for the press, before even Miss Strickland's announcement appeared. Under these circumstances, it is a little too bad to insinuate that Miss Lawrance has, in some way or other, acted unjustly or ungenerously towards Miss Strickland.

Having thus quieted our conscience, we come now to the work itself, which is the first volume of a series, to contain, in unbroken succession, memoirs of all the Queens of England—Queens Consort and Queens Regnant—since the Conquest. A bold venture this, and, for a lady, somewhat perilous. The difficulty attending the early consorts arises from a paucity of materials; while the only historical facts of importance in the career of some of the later queens—Katherine of Arragon, Anne Boleyn, and Katherine Howard, for instance—are such as a young lady would scarcely like to avow she had even read, much less have critically investigated and reasoned upon.

Our surprise was great on perceiving that this entire volume contained only the lives of the first five queens after the Conquest, about whom we supposed all that could possibly be said would not fill one hundred pages; but the second title of the work, 'Anecdotes of their Courts,' explained the mystery, and we found, as was to be expected, that the Queens themselves were almost lost in a mass of every kind of historical, antiquarian, and gossiping matter of the slightest interest which industry and research could collect. The book is thus rendered an agreeable one, and, to young persons especially, may be

considered a valuable contribution to historical knowledge. An opinion of Miss Strickland's style will best be formed from the following extracts; but we must in all kindness to her suggest that in a grave historical work, attempts at jocularity are entirely misplaced; the flippant allusions to the faith and religious feelings, though grossly superstitious, of past ages, show bad taste rather than a philosophic spirit; and that a narrative loses rather than gains strength by that besetting sin of female writers, a redundancy of adjectives and epithets. While presuming to administer advice, we would also suggest that it is not enough to find a statement in a printed book, ancient or modern, to justify its being admitted as truth; that it is the most essential duty of a biographer as well as of an historian, to form a correct estimate of the authorities he consults, and not to attach the same weight to such books as 'Henderson's Life of William the Conqueror,' and 'Pyne's Royal Residences,' as to contemporary chroniclers; and that when references are given, (without which, as in Henderson, no historical work is of the slightest value,) the volume and page should be mentioned. The justice of exacting such severity of reference from Miss Strickland, more particularly, is shown by the ambitious character of her labours, and the solemn tone in which she speaks of the accuracy of her facts, and her "deep research"—

"Facts, not opinions," should be the motto of every candid historian; and it is a sacred duty to assert nothing lightly, or without good evidence, of those who can no longer answer for themselves. I have borne in mind the charge which prefaces the jurymen's oath,—it runs as follows:—'You shall truly and justly try this cause; you shall present no one from malice; you shall excuse no one from favour,' &c. &c. Feeling myself thus charged, by each and every one of the buried Queens of England whose actions, from the cradle to the tomb, I was about to lay before the public, I considered the responsibility of the task, rather than the necessity of expediting the publication of the work. The number of authorities required, some of which could not be obtained in England, and the deep research among the Norman, Provençal, French, and monkish Latin authors, that was indispensably necessary, made it impossible to hurry out a work which I hoped to render permanently useful."

The Conqueror having long wooed Matilda of Flanders (who "cherished a passion for Brihtric, surnamed Snow, from the fairness of his complexion,") without success, adopted a novel, but it seems efficacious, mode of showing the fervour of his love:—

"After seven years delay, William appears to have become desperate; and if we may trust the evidence of the chronicle of Inger, he, in the year 1047, waylaid Matilda in the streets of Bruges as she was returning from mass, seized her, rolled her in the dirt, spoiled her rich array, and, not content with these outrages, struck her repeatedly, and rode off at full speed. This Teutonic method of courtship, according to our author, brought the affair to a crisis, for Matilda either convinced of the strength of William's passion by the violence of his behaviour, or afraid of encountering a second beating, consented to become his wife."

But the happiness of the royal pair was, we are told, wonderful:—

"All historians have agreed that they were a most attached pair, and that whatever might have been the previous state of Matilda's affections, they were unalterably and faithfully fixed upon her cousin from the hour she became his wife, and with reason, for William was the most devoted of husbands, and always allowed her to take the ascendant in the matrimonial scale. The confidence he reposed in her was unbounded, and very shortly after their marriage he entrusted the reins of government to her care, when he crossed over to England, to pay a visit to his friend and kinsman, Edward the Confessor. By

his marriage with Matilda, William had strengthened this connexion, and added a nearer tie of relationship to the English sovereign; and he was perhaps willing to remind the childless monarch of that circumstance, and to recal to his memory the hospitality he had received, both at the Flemish and the Norman courts, during the period of his adversity. * * Nine months after her marriage, Matilda gave birth to a son, whom William named Robert after his father, thinking that the name of a prince whose memory was so dear to Normandy would ensure the popularity of his heir. The happiness of the royal pair was greatly increased by this event. In fact, nothing could exceed the terms of affection and confidence in which they lived. They were at that period reckoned the handsomest and most tenderly united couple in Europe. The fine natural talents of both had been improved by a degree of mental cultivation very unusual in that age, and there was a similarity in their tastes and pursuits which rendered their companionship delightful to each other in private hours, and gave to all their public acts that graceful unanimity which could not fail of producing the happiest effects on the minds of their subjects."

William does not, however, seem to have been a model of conjugal virtue, or Matilda a pattern of submission and meekness; for a report that the Norman tyrant had dishonoured the fair niece of Marleswert, a Kentish noble, who was the daughter of one of the canons of Canterbury, having come to the Queen's ears, it

"caused the first conjugal difference that had arisen between her and her lord. She was by no means of a temper to take any affront of the kind patiently, and it is said she caused the unfortunate damsel to be put to death with circumstances of great cruelty. Hearne, in his notes to Robert of Gloucester, furnishes us with a curious sequel to this tale, extracted from a very ancient Chronicle among the Cottonian MSS., which, after relating 'that the priest's daughter was privily slain by a confidential servant of Matilda, the queen,' adds, 'that the Conqueror was so enraged at the barbarous revenge taken by his queen,' 'that, on his return to Normandy, he beat her with his bridle so severely, that she soon after died.' Now it is certain Matilda lived full ten years after the period at which this matrimonial discipline is said to have been inflicted upon her by the strong arm of the Conqueror, and the worthy chronicler himself seems to regard that part of the tale as apocryphal, and merely relates it as one of the current reports of the day."

Another anecdote related of Matilda is so manifestly absurd, that it is surprising Miss Strickland should give credence to it:—

"In the first year of the reign of William the Conqueror, Matilda obtained from her lord the grant of all Brihtric's lands and honours, and that she then caused the unfortunate Saxon to be seized at his manor of Hanelye, and conveyed to Winchester, where he died in prison, and was privately buried. Thus, then, does it appear that Matilda, after having been for fourteen years filling a most exalted station, and enjoying the greatest happiness as a wife and mother, had secretly brooded over the bitter memory of the slight that had been offered to her in early youth, for the purpose of inflicting the deadliest vengeance in return on the man who had rejected the love she had once condescended to offer. * * Matilda, moreover, deprived Gloucester of its charter and civic liberties, merely because it was the city of the unfortunate Brihtric—perhaps for showing some sign of resentment for his fate. We fear that the first of our Norman queens must on this evidence stand convicted of the crime of wrong and robbery, if not of absolute murder; and if it had been possible to make a *post mortem* examination on the body of the unfortunate son of Algar, sufficient reason might have been seen perhaps for the private nature of his interment. All this wrong was done by agency, for, if dates be correct, Matilda had not yet entered England."

William appears, from the following rather apocryphal anecdote, to have liked a practical joke. Having applied to his brother-in-law,

Count Baldwin of Flanders, to assist him in his invasion of England,—the Count asked, "What share of England he intended to give him in return?"—

"The duke, surprised at this demand, told his brother-in-law 'that he could not satisfy him on that point till he had consulted with his barons on the subject;' but instead of naming the matter to them, he took a piece of fair parchment, and having folded it in the form of a letter, he superscribed it to Count Baldwin of Flanders, and sealed it with the ducal seal, and wrote the following distich on the label that surrounded the scroll—

*'Beau frere, en Angleterre vous aurez
Ce qui dedans escript vous trouverez.'*

Which is to say, 'Brother-in-law, I give you such a share of England as you shall find within this letter.' He then sealed the letter with the ducal seal of Normandy, and sent it to the young count by a shrewd-witted page, who was much in his confidence. When Baldwin had read this promising endorsement, he broke the seal full of expectation, but finding the parchment blank, he showed it to the bearer, and asked what was the duke's meaning. 'Nought is written here,' replied the messenger, 'and nought shalt thou receive, therefore look for nothing. The honour that the duke seeks will be for the advantage of your sister and her children, and their greatness will be the advancement of yourself, and the benefit will be felt by your country; but if you refuse your aid, then, with the blessing of God, my lord will conquer England without your help.'

It having been said that Matilda, daughter of Malcolm, King of Scotland, the consort of Henry the First, "the good Queen Maude," as she was afterwards called, had taken the veil, her marriage was objected to on that account, and the affair being referred to the authorities of the Church,—

"Matilda made her appearance before the synod, and was closely interrogated by the primate Anselm, in the presence of the whole hierarchy of England, as to the reality of her alleged devotion to a religious life. The particulars of her examination have been preserved by Eadmer, who, as the secretary of the Archbishop Anselm, was doubtless an eye-witness of this interesting scene, and in all probability recorded the very words uttered by the princess. The Archbishop commenced by stating the objections to her marriage, grounded on the prevailing report that she had embraced a religious life, and declared 'that no motive whatever would induce him to dispense with her vow, if it had already been given to Almighty God.' The princess denied that there had been any such engagement on her part. She was asked if she had embraced a religious life, either by her own choice or the vow of her parents; and she replied, 'Neither.' Then she was examined as to the fact of her having worn the black veil of a votaress in her father's court, and subsequently in the nunneries of Rumsey and Wilton. 'I do not deny,' said Matilda, 'having worn the veil in my father's court; for, when I was a child, my aunt Christina put a piece of black cloth over my head, but when my father saw me with it, he snatched it off in a great rage, and execrated the person who had put it on me. I afterwards made a pretence of wearing it to excuse myself from unsuitable marriages; and, on one of these occasions, my father tore the veil and threw it on the ground, observing to Alan Earl of Bretagne, who stood by, that it was his intention to give me in marriage, not to devote me to the church.' She also admitted that she had assumed the veil in the nunnery of Rumsey as a protection from the lawless violence of the Norman nobles, and that she had continued to wear that badge of conventual devotion, against her own inclination, through the harsh compulsion of her aunt, the Abbess Christina. 'If I attempted to remove it,' continued Matilda, 'she would torment me with harsh blows and sharp reproaches: sighing and trembling, I wore it in her presence, but as soon as I withdrew from her sight I always threw it off and trampled upon it.' This explanation was considered perfectly satisfactory by the council at Lambeth, and they pronounced that 'Matilda, daughter of Malcolm King of Scotland, had proved that she had not embraced a religious life either by her own choice, or the vow of her

parents, and she was therefore free to contract marriage with the king.' The council, in addition to this declaration, thought proper to make the most cogent reason which the Scottish princess had given for her assumption of the black veil, on her coming to England, public, which was done in the following remarkable words. 'When the great King William conquered this land, many of his followers, elated by so great a victory, and thinking that everything ought to be subservient to their will and pleasure, not only seized the provisions of the conquered, but invaded the honour of their matrons and virgins whenever they had an opportunity. This obliged many young ladies who dreaded their violence to put on the veil to preserve their honour.' According to the Saxon chroniclers, Matilda, notwithstanding her repugnance to the consecrated veil, exhibited a very maidenly reluctance to enter the holy pale of matrimony with a royal husband. It is possible that the report of the immoral tenor of Henry's life before he ascended the throne, which was evidenced by his acknowledging the claims of twenty illegitimate children, might be regarded by a princess of her purity of mind and manners as a very serious objection; and if, as many of the early chroniclers intimate, there had been a previous engagement between Henry and herself, she of course felt both displeasure and disgust at his amours with the beautiful Nesta, daughter of the Prince of Wales, and other ladies too numerous to particularise. It is certain that after the council at Lambeth had pronounced her free to marry, Matilda resisted for a time the entreaties of the king, and the commands of her royal brother and sovereign, to accept the brilliant destiny which she was offered. * * * At the wedding of Matilda and Henry the First, there was a most prodigious concourse of nobility and people assembled in and about the church at Westminster, when, to prevent all calumny and ill report that the king was about to marry a nun, the Archbishop Anselm mounted into a pulpit and gave the multitude a history of the events proved before the synod, and its judgment that the Lady Matilda of Scotland was free from any religious vow, and might dispose of herself in marriage as she thought fit; and the archbishop finished by asking the people in a loud voice whether any one there objected to this decision, upon which they answered unanimously with a loud shout that the matter was rightly settled. Accordingly the lady was immediately married to the king and crowned before that vast assembly. A more simple yet majestic appeal to the sense of the people in regard to a royal marriage, history records not."

A constitutional question of the utmost difficulty, which has puzzled the most profoundly learned writers of this country, is settled by Miss Strickland in a very summary manner:—

"By close examination of the earliest authorities, we find that the first parliaments held by the Anglo-Norman dynasty were the fruits of the virtuous influence of this excellent queen over the mind of her husband. But as the fact that parliaments were ever held before the reigns of Henry III. and Edward I. has been a point of great contest among modern historians, we feel it indispensable to bring forward our proofs, first, that parliaments were held, and next, that they were held through the influence of Matilda."

Who will now have the hardihood to entertain a doubt on the subject, especially when he learns that the conclusive authorities alluded to are the rhyming Chronicles of Robert of Gloucester, and Peter of Langtoft? Thus, happily, does Miss Strickland satisfy her own mind, and it would be cruel to disturb her felicity.

What would have been the fate of Moore and Béranger had they lived under the benign sway of Henry the First, may be learned from that of their predecessor, Luke de Barré, who rebelled against Henry, and, far worse, fanned the rebellion of others by satirical verses against the King:—

"These songs were provokingly satirical, and, being personally levelled against Henry, contained, we should suppose, some passages which involved a betrayal of confidence; for Henry was so bitterly incensed, that when the luckless poet was made pri-

soner at the battle of Terroude, he barbarously condemned his former friend to lose his eyes on a scaffold, by the hands of the public executioner. This sentence was greatly lamented by the court, for Luke de Barré was not only a pleasant and jocular companion, but a gentleman of courage and honour. The Earl of Flanders interceded for the wretched victim. 'No, sir, no,' replied Henry; 'for this man, being a wit, a bard, and a minstrel, forsooth, hath composed many ribald songs against me, and sung them to raise the horse-laughts of mine enemies. Now it hath pleased God to deliver him into mine hands, punished he shall be to deter others from the like petulance.' The sentence therefore took place, and the hapless poet died of the wounds he received in struggling with the executioner. The Provençal annalists, however, declare that the gallant troubadour avoided the execution of Henry's sentence, by dashing his head against the wall, which caused his death. So much for the punishment of libels in the twelfth century."

About 1049, Adelia of Louvaine, the second wife of Henry I., stimulated by the example of her brother, "withdrew not only from the pomps and parade of earthly grandeur, but from the endearments of her adoring husband and youthful progeny, and, crossing the sea, retired to the nunnery in the same foundation, where she ended her days, and was buried." It is gratifying, however, to find that Miss Strickland highly disapproves of such unnatural sacrifices. She says,—

"Strange as it appears to us, that any one who was at the very summit of earthly felicity should have broken through such fond ties of conjugal and maternal love as those by which Adelia was surrounded, to bury herself in cloistered seclusion, there is indubitable evidence that such was the fact; and it was in full accordance with the spirit of that age, which affords examples of princes forsaking their kingdoms and families, to perform weary pilgrimages to distant lands, and princesses pronouncing perverse vows of celibacy on the day of their nuptials, and even prevailing at length on their warlike lords to imitate their pious examples; with many other self-denying ordinances by which those who practised them trusted to obtain a place in the saintly calendar of the Church of Rome."

The life of Eleanor of Aquitaine, the queen of Henry the Second, is the most interesting in the series; and her character and various intrigues are noticed with delicacy, without sacrificing historical truth. In Miss Strickland's opinion,—

"The greatest slur on the character of Queen Eleanor is, that in her coquettish she as little regarded the marriage engagements of the persons on whom she bestowed her attention, as she did her own conjugal ties."

While the wife of her first husband, Louis the Seventh, Eleanor determined on accompanying him in a crusade, and armed a band of heroines to attend her:—

"The romantic idea of becoming a female crusader had got into the light head of Eleanor's husband; and being at this time in the very flower of her youth and beauty, she swayed the king of France according to her will and pleasure. Suger gives us the description of the preparations Eleanor made for this campaign, which were absurd enough to raise the idea, that the good statesman was romancing, if contemporary historians had not confirmed his evidence. When Queen Eleanor received the cross from St. Bernard at Vezelay, she directly put on the dress of an Amazon; and her ladies, all actuated by the same frenzy, mounted on horseback, and forming a lightly armed squadron, surrounded the queen when she appeared in public, calling themselves Queen Eleanor's body-guard. They practised Amazonian exercises, and performed a thousand follies in public, to animate their zeal as practical crusaders. By the suggestion of their young queen, this band of madwomen sent their useless distaffs as presents to all the knights and nobles who had the good sense to keep out of this insane expedition. This ingenious taunt had the effect of shaming many wise men out of their better resolutions; and to such a degree was this

mania of the crusade carried, that, as St. Bernard himself owns, whole villages were deserted by their male inhabitants, and the land left to be tilled by women and children."

The story of the Fair Rosamond is told at length; but for this and other amusing anecdotes of the twelfth century, illustrative of the manners and customs of society, as well as of the general history of the period, we must refer our readers to Miss Strickland's volume.

For the lives of the subsequent Queens, particularly of Margaret of Anjou and Katherine Parr, many facts are promised, "which are at present unknown to historians;" and we have derived so much entertainment, if not instruction, from the commencement of the work, that we look forward with pleasure to its continuation.

Social Life in Germany illustrated in the Acted Dramas of Her Royal Highness the Princess Amelia of Saxony. Translated from the German, with an Introduction and Notes, &c. By Mrs. Jameson. 2 vols. Saunders & Otley.

LIKE all Mrs. Jameson's works, the one under notice bears that stamp of individual thought and earnest purpose, which distinguishes authorship from book-manufacture. Her increasing desire is to improve the social position of her own sex; to emancipate woman,—"not," to quote her own explanation, "from the high duties to which we are born, or from the virtues on which the whole frame of social life may be said to rest," but "from such trammels and disabilities, be they legal or conventional, as are manifestly injurious—shutting us out from honourable redress where we are oppressed, and from the means of honest subsistence where we are destitute." This purpose is advanced by every new display of original intellect and moral strength in female literature,—and the present offering to the public is happily marked by both characteristics. But another motive, in part, tempted Mrs. Jameson to translate these dramas by the Princess Amelia; one involving considerations too often lost sight of by critics, who, partial in their sympathy, regard with indulgence the struggles of genius in the field, the factory, and the hovel, while they are apt to mock at its throbbings—not less distinctly marked—beneath the ermine of state, and within the chilling, constraining circle of etiquette:—

"If many a gem of purest ray serene lie hidden in dark unfathomable depths of poverty and misery, many a flower, born to diffuse fragrance and blessedness through God's world, droops faint, or runs rank in the confined atmosphere of a court, or in some similar hotbed, where light and heat (which are truth and love) are admitted by measure. It were to be wished that the two extremes of society could be a little more just to each other; while you shall hear the vulgar great wondering and speculating over genius and refinement in a Ploughman Poet and a Corn Law Rhyme, you shall see the vulgar little, incredulous of the human sympathies, the tender yearnings, the brilliant though often unemployed capacities of those lifted above their sordid wants and cares: yet are they all one brotherhood and sisterhood.—Many a genius rests mute and inglorious within a trophied vault as well as in a village churchyard, equally stifled and smothered up by impediments and obstructions infinite."

A third reason for giving these plays to the public was, to throw some light, not merely on the present state of the theatre, but on the actual household life of Germany, presented upon its stage without much exaggeration. For the genius of the Princess Amelia, which appears to have neither trope nor simile, imaginative conception nor majestic utterance at its disposal, busies itself in tracing the course of the commonest affections displayed under the simplest aspects. One drama, to which we shall allude presently, is "of the court, courtly," but others

lead us into the country-house of the farmer, the laboratory of the physician, the back parlour of the banker, nay, even the still-room of the notable *fräulein*, who mixes up cookery, account-keeping, and a passion for Schiller, so as to form an agreeable, though a most un-English, picture of industry and accomplishment. The success of these plays, while it reveals largely the tastes and temper of the audiences who have sanctioned them, appears to us only natural. Without the slightest pretensions to fine writing, their scenes are animated with feeling, pathos, and subdued humour; while they are interesting as to the conduct, though somewhat monotonous as to the contrivance of their plots. On the maintenance of one secret, from whence ramify trials and misunderstandings ingeniously varied, does the story of each, more or less, depend; for, on the revelation of the mystery, Intrigue is at an end, Folly is delivered over to the chastenings of the school-master—with Vice the princess deals very sparingly—while Virtue and Disinterestedness raise their eyes to Heaven in gratitude for the recompense accorded them on earth.

Five only of the fifteen dramas produced by the Princess Amelia are here translated. Of these, our favourite is her earliest—the 'Princely Bride.' Though we fully recognize and enter into the feeling which has led the authoress to place the scene of so many of her works in rank far beneath her own, we put the most trust in the fineness of her observation and the fidelity of her touch, when her incidents and *dramatis personæ* are derived from the note-book of her own most intimate experience. Mrs. Jameson imagines that this very circumstance, this plain recital of an "o'er true tale," has tended to render the work we like best one of the least popular of the series in the country of its birth. "I have been told," says its translator, "that at the Burg Theatre, at Vienna, it was set aside, because it was not thought decorous to exhibit all the details of a modern court upon the stage."

We shall offer no analysis of the story of the 'Princely Bride,'—nor would a single scene extracted from a work in which the ornaments of style have been so entirely dispensed with, afford the reader any fair idea of its progressive interest or the individuality of its colouring. It will be best then to draw upon Mrs. Jameson's eloquent Introduction for a passage which may give us a glimpse into one nook of the world in Germany, which the events of the hour make a more than usually interesting object of contemplation to all British subjects:—

"The English reader may imagine the Princess-Bride, the heroine of the drama, to be the daughter of one of the petty sovereigns of the German Confederation,—of some duke, or grand duke, or prince, with a territory perhaps half as large as Yorkshire, and a revenue of two or three hundred thousand a year. The daughter of such a prince would, in these days, receive an education very similar to that of our female aristocracy of the highest rank. She would be as carefully instructed in the usual accomplishments; her intellect as well cultivated within the usual bounds; and she would be even more watchfully excluded from all knowledge of her own nature, and the nature of the wide, many-peopled world around her, with which she must never come into contact but under artificial or illusive circumstances. She would be taught that the first duties of her high station were an affable demeanour to her inferiors, and charity to the poor; and while the whole tendency of the education given to her, and the circumstances of her position, would be to foster individual pride, the slightest assumption of it would be suppressed, because it would remain unprovoked by any competition of pretensions; or checked, because it would be regarded as a fault of manner—unpopular, unprincess-like, unlady-like. * * From such a girlhood, the young Englishwoman of high rank emerges at once into a world of realities, and falls under the

influence of an order of things which completes the formation of her character one way or another. Not so with our young German Princess. The transition with her is from one dream-world into another; she never quits the precincts of her father's court but to enter another and a similar circle of forms and ceremonies and representation, uniting all the unsubstantialness and glitter of a vision, with all the tedium and flatness of the flattest of worldly realities. At the age of eighteen or twenty, a marriage is arranged for her with some neighbouring prince, whose alliance is considered advantageous. There is an exchange of embassies, proposals, pictures, letters, and the thing is settled. Marriages by proxy between parties who have never seen each other are less frequent than formerly, since it has become more the fashion for hereditary grand dukes and serene highnesses to travel about the world, and use at least a negative discretion in these matters: still they *do* take place. One of my best and kindest friends in Germany was a lady whose office it had been, in quality of Grand-maitresse, to see a young and beautiful princess espoused by proxy, and conduct her afterwards from her imperial home to the court of her husband some thousand miles off. But to return to the princess whose destinies we are following in fancy—the princess of our drama. Brought up in retirement, surrounded by sentimental women whose education has been as confined as her own, all the fervour of her German imagination—all the fresh feelings of her young heart only waiting to be kindled and called forth, she consents to the marriage arranged for her as a matter of course, and, as a matter of course, probably falls in love with the *idéal* she has formed of her unseen husband. On reaching her new home, she sees the man to whom she has been given, the very opposite of all she had pictured him in fancy; or possibly finds him, as in the drama, devotedly attached to another, (and such was the fate of one of the loveliest and most accomplished among the princesses of Germany;) happy, however, if, where she meets weakness or indifference, she find not unworthiness also. Then comes the awakening, reluctant and slow; there is a wringing at the heart, a sharp, silent struggle, which, in the cherished pride of sex and of position, she hides from all, and with which, in her simplicity, she reproaches herself as with a crime hitherto unheard of and uncommitted; and then, if a weak passionate woman, she becomes miserable or profligate through all the usual gradations, and dies of *ennui*; but if, like the Princess of our drama, she be gifted, and high-minded, and high principled, she turns for consolation to pure and lofty sources: she patronises art, and does good as well as she may,—her best intentions and purposes still subject to practical error from the confined sphere and intense ignorance of humanity in which she has been educated: she takes a pride in gathering to her little court men distinguished in literature and science; she even obtains quietly and silently the upper hand in the government; for it is the inevitable law of God and nature, that where the *power* is, there will the *rule* be also, in spite of Salique laws and any other laws. Then she may have children, in whom she centres her pleasure and her pride; in educating them, she in a manner new educates herself. She cultivates the promising talents of her eldest son, the hereditary prince, or sees him in silent despair become like his father, weak and dissipated. Her younger sons enter the military service of one of the great powers, Prussia or Austria, become captains or colonels, wearing rich uniforms and half a dozen orders, and spending a small paternal allowance in addition to their pay. The daughters of the Princess-Bride are brought up as their mother was before them: sighing, she sees them one after another depart from her to fulfil a destiny similar to her own; but without a suspicion that all this is not in the essential nature of things: and the once hopeful and feeling heart, and the once bright and aspiring mind, subdued at last to the element in which she moves, she goes through her state and court duties, holds her *grand et petit cercle* with habitual grace and suppressed *ennui*, plays piquet every night with the prince, sees every day the same faces, and does and says every day the same things;—and so she dies, leaving behind her, perhaps, one favourite *Hofdame* to grieve for her, and the pensioners on her bounty to weep for her—or for their pensions—and there an end."

Let us hope that something more of reciprocal obligation, of hearty affection, than is displayed in this melancholy sketch of the destiny of a German princess, may enter into the story of the married life of a German prince! It was in the midst, however, of such influences, that the Princess Amelia of Saxony saw the light. She was born in 1794; the grand-daughter of that Electress of Saxony, whose name figures honourably in the list of obsolete musical composers, as having written operas. A taste for literary pursuits, indeed, seems to pervade the whole family: the present King of Saxony, her brother, when Crown Prince, published a work on Botany and Mineralogy, and her younger brother, the Prince John, is but now completing the publication of a translation of *La Divina Comedia* into German verse. The Princess Amelia, too, Mrs. Jameson tells us, found distinguished preceptresses in her two aunts,—the Queen Maria Amelia, and the Princess Maria Theresa. But, by way of counterbalance to natural propensity, and to advantageous position, "the etiquette of the court of Saxony was exceedingly minute and severe. The princesses were brought up in strict seclusion. 'Their foot,' as the song says, 'might never touch the ground;' and I have heard that one of them, when these punctilious disabilities were removed, made it her first request to be allowed to cross on foot the beautiful bridge over the Elbe, on which she had looked daily from her palace window for twenty years of her life."

The convulsions of European warfare, however, shook this state of ceremony to its centre: "old grandseurs," to quote our translator, "cut but a sorry figure, and old forms became as old rags;" and when the Princess returned from Prague, in the year 1815, to inhabit the palace of her fathers at Dresden, she had heard and seen and felt enough, and (metaphorically speaking) "had crossed the bridge on foot" sufficiently often, to set free her desire to exercise creative power. Her subsequent travels to Italy, France, and Spain—over which latter country she might have been queen, if it be true that Ferdinand VII. made his proposals to herself, in the first instance, before espousing her younger sister—enlarged her stores of observation, and quickened her genius; and it was in the year 1834 that the first performance of one of her dramas took place. This was 'Truth and Falsehood,' the first and the weakest among Mrs. Jameson's five, which had been sent to the theatre at Dresden under the cover of a false name—Amelia Heiter—had been there rejected, forwarded to Berlin, and only tried, by way of *pis aller*, first at the private theatre of the *Prinzessinnen-Pallast*, on the occasion of the birthday of the Princess of Mecklenburg—afterwards at the Hof Theatre—with complete success. Other works, from the same hand, were subsequently produced; and gradually the secret oozed out, that Amelia Heiter and a Princess of Saxony, were one and the same person. The story is fairly and naturally calculated to draw attention to the works here naturalized in our world of lighter literature; while the general Introduction prefixed by Mrs. Jameson, and the separate prefaces to each of the dramas, contain interesting matter, as our readers have seen. Here and there, however, it appears to us as if the translator had passed the bounds which separate freedom and dilution, and we fancy that we could amend one or two of her foot notes. For instance, the phrase "giving him the basket," as used with regard to a rejected lover, (Vol. i. p. 28,) seems to have puzzled Mrs. Jameson. "I know not," she says, "whence it is derived." Now, the explanation, in the 'Stumme Liebe' of Musius, if not positively incontrovertible, is better than none. He makes the proverb spring from one of the old national legends, in which an Auld Robin Gray—a German baker, whose

pretensions to marry a poor beauty have been encouraged by a scheming mother, is dismissed—"has the basket given to him;" when the agreeable young spendthrift, whom the maiden had really loved, returns, reinstated in wealth and prosperity. There is an allusion, too, (Vol. i. p. 139,) to Weigl—one of the most melodious musical composers of the second order in Germany—which claims amplification in a second edition.

The Adamus Exul of Grotius; or the Prototype of Paradise Lost. Translated by F. Barham, Esq. Sherwood & Co.

Milton's Paradise Lost, with Notes. By J. Prendeville, Esq., A.B. of Trin. Col. Dublin. Holdsworth & Co.

LAUDER'S attack on the originality of Milton, about the middle of the last century, was one of the strangest exhibitions of forgery in the annals of literary controversy. He had early detected marks of imitation in the *Paradise Lost*, and had collected materials to prove that Milton drew largely, not only on the ancient classics, but also on modern Latin poems; but, not satisfied with the amount of evidence, he drew largely on his own invention, and thus exposed himself to the detection of Bishop Douglas. In Lauder's charge

Some truth there was, though dash'd and brew'd with lies, and it is impossible to read Grotius's tragedy without feeling that it contains the outline, at least, of the character of the Miltonic Satan; and some features, as Mr. Prendeville's notes prove, were taken from the Prometheus of Æschylus. The researches of the French antiquarians into the literary history of the Middle Ages have brought to light another work, to which Milton was directly or indirectly indebted,—a poem by Saint Avitus, bishop of Vienne, in Gaul, entitled 'Creation, Original Sin, and the Expulsion from Paradise.' The bishop's work displays in some passages considerable poetic beauty, and a more classical latinity than is usual in works of the age; we may quote, as an example, the description of the garden of Eden:—

Non hic alterni succedit temporis unquam
Bruma, nec æstivi redeunt post frigora soles,
Excelsus calidum cum reddit circulus annum,
Vel densante gelu canescunt arva pruinis.
Hic ver assiduum celi clementia servat;
Turbidus auster abest, semperque sub aere sudo
Nubila diffugiunt jugi cœsuræ sereno,
Nec poscit natura loci quos non habet imbres,
Sed contenta suo dotantur germen rore.
Perpetuo viret omne solum, terræque tepentis
Blanda nitet facies. Stant semper collibus herbæ
Arboribusq; comæ, quæ cum se flore frequent
Diffundunt, celeri confortant flumina succo.
Nam quidquid nobis toto nunc nascitur anno,
Menstrua maturo dant illic tempora fructu.
Lilia perlucent nullo flaccida sole
Nec tactus violat violas, roseumque ruborem
Servan perpetuo suffundit gratia vultu.

Milton's description is more rich in classic allusion, and more suggestive than that which we have quoted, but not more picturesque, or, if such an expression be allowable, more faithful in delineation. Avitus has painted the passionate regret of Satan, and his thirst for vengeance, with almost as much spirit as the English poet: he has avoided the political allusions and the controversial doctrines which Milton has introduced, and has well preserved the stern majesty of the Fallen Intelligence. The concluding passage is equally forcible in thought and expression:—

Hæc mihi dejecto tandem solatia restant.
Si neque clausos iterum conscendere celos,
His quoque claudetur. Levius cecidisse putandum est
Si nova perdatur simili substantia casu.
Si comes excidit subeat consortia pœnæ,
Et quos prævidio nobiscum dividat ignes.

The rarity of the work induces us to make another extract from the Latin poet, and we

shall quote the reproaches addressed by Adam to Eve, after the Expulsion from Paradise. The tenderness which, even in sorrow, he feels for her, is natural and touching.

Ille ubi convictum claro se lumine vidit,
Prodidit et totum discussio justa reatum,
Non prece summissa veniam pro crimine poscit,
Non votis lacrymisque rogat nec vindicæ fletu
Præcurrit meritam supplex confessio pœnam;
Jamque miser factus, nondum miserabilis ille est
Erigitur sensu, tumidiq; accensa querelis
Fortur in insanas laxata superbia voces:
"Heu male perdendo mulier conjuncta marito!
Quam sociam misero prima sub lege dedisti
Hæc me consiliis viciit devicta sinistris,
Et sibi jam notum persuasit sumere pœnam.
Ista mali caput est, crimen surrexit ab ista,
Credulus ipsi fui, sed credere tu docuisti,
Connubia domans et dulcis vincula nectens,
Atque utinam felix, quæ quondam sola vigeat
Cœlebs vita foret, talis nec conjugi unquam
Fœdera sensisset, coniti non subdita prævæ."

M. Guizot was the first who directed attention to this poem of Avitus, but M. Charpentier has discussed its influence on later ecclesiastical literature with greater accuracy, and has shown that both Anysius and Du Bartas were indebted to the bishop. While we agree with Mr. Barham that the 'Adamus Exul' was probably an immediate source of the 'Paradise Lost,' we think that Avitus must claim the merit of having originally devised the theme, and in a great degree traced out the course of its subsequent poetic development.

The 'Adamus Exul' is in some places disfigured with scholastic quibbling, a fault from which the 'Paradise Lost' is not free; and in some parts of the dialogue, Grotius has imitated the worst style of Euripides, and made his dialogue a string of repartees. Mr. Barham's translation hides some of the imperfections of the original. The Miltonic cadence which he has not unsuccessfully aimed at in his blank verse, adds a charm to the drama, which is wanting in the harsh and unmusical measures of Grotius. We shall quote two or three lines, as a specimen of the translator's metrical power:—

O that death
Were still discoverable—the dreamless sleep
Unknown as yet to human fear—to me
Is fancy's chiefest bliss; and hopelessly
I hope to find perdition swallowed up
By best annihilation, and all hell
Self-burned into oblivion, self-consumed.

It is, we think, evident from all inquiries into the subject, that Milton derived a great portion of the matter of his immortal epic from the sacred poems of preceding ages, but the manner is certainly his own. Their style was moulded on the refinements of the later Latin poets. Milton formed his language on the severe simplicity and stern majesty of the Greeks. Mr. Prendeville has shown that many of the apparent anomalies, which perplexed the grammatical commentators, are Hellenistic forms of expression, derived chiefly from Homer and Æschylus. Grotius appears to have chosen Seneca as his master, especially in the choruses; indeed, few young men escape the fascinations of an author whom Quintilian so aptly describes in three words—"Dulcibus vitis abundat." It is only when the mind is matured and the taste formed, that sublimity of thought is preferred to highly-wrought declamation.

No one can suppose that a leaf will be stripped from the laurel wreath of Milton, by showing that he chose a subject which had often been tried by inferior hands. On the contrary, it seems to us that his fame is enhanced by contrast, and by the immeasurable superiority he evinced over all his competitors. The glory that Ulysses gained by bending the trial-bow, would not have been so great but for the previous failures of the suitors of Penelope.

A Winter in Iceland and Lapland. By the Hon. Arthur Dillon.

[Second Notice.]

THE same objection holds against Mr. Dillon's account of Lapland as was urged against his Iceland—an absurdly disproportionate space is occupied with meagre historical sketches, equally deficient in novelty and interest. We must, therefore, again restrict ourselves to his personal observations, though our extracts, we fear, will be less interesting than in our former notice. In Iceland the ground was his own—a few travellers, indeed, at wide intervals, and during the summer months, have paid hurried visits there, but a winter residence was a novelty. With Sweden, an account of which occupies a considerable portion of the second volume, we are familiar; and in Lapland, even, he has been anticipated, and the very route he pursued was that by which the French *savans* returned, as described in the letter received thence, and published at the time in this Journal (see No. 603)—that is, from Tornea to Muonio-Niska, thence crossing the mountains to Koutokeino, and, taking the course of the Alten, to Altengaard, the furthest point visited, and the very place whence the *savans* started. We shall not join company with our traveller until he has reached the Tornea, which discharges itself at the northern extremity of the gulf of Bothnia, and is the present boundary between Sweden and Russia. The country and town situated to the east of the river were ceded to Russia at the close of the last war—since when a little thriving town, called Happaranda, has sprung up on the western shore. Tornea was at this time garrisoned by a party of Cossacks:—

"Eager," says Mr. Dillon, "to see again the long beards of these half-wild troops, of which I had a very indistinct recollection, I asked the way to Tornea, and was pointed out an avenue of young fir-trees planted on the ice, and forming a good track over the river. It is scarcely half a mile wide in this part, and, after making some leeway in my progress, for the wind was very high, I came to the opposite bank. I expected here to be subjected to the examination which takes place on every other part of the Russian frontier, but nothing in the shape of soldier or custom-house officer, or, indeed, living being, presented itself. A sentry box, I was going to say empty, but there I would be incorrect, for it was choked up with snow, was the only thing on duty here, and a high barrier of drift was the only bar to my entrance. * * * Turning up what appeared to me the principal street,—for as yet I had met but one individual, and he, upon my addressing him in Swedish, made a sign that he did not understand me—a gay-looking building, painted green and white, drew my attention from the uniformly mean houses on both sides. Four or five bells were hung in a row, not on the summit but on one side of it. This was the Russian church used for the troops; the Finlanders are Lutherans, and have their own church. More sentry boxes, equally untenanted, were planted here and there. * * * A little further on, I came to the 'Gästgivarvård' of the town. On one side of the gateway I observed a post, on which was painted in large letters, 'To St. Petersburg, 1735 wersta.' This was the first mark I saw of the change that Tornea had undergone by the fortune of war; its distance was now calculated from a new centre."

"We first drove to the apothecary, that generally great man in little towns. The shop was well fitted up, and displayed an assortment of jars and bottles that would not have disgraced a chemist in a country-town in England. * * * The assistant, perceiving that we were strangers, mentioned it to his principal, who invited us into his house, and insisted upon our taking some wine, and, what is a rarity at Tornea, some apples. He then conducted us to the barracks. There were not more than thirty-two Cossacks and two officers stationed in the town, and, strange to say, this place is considered a very desirable post to be quartered in. The men have little to do in summer but to amuse themselves by fishing in the river, and winning the hearts of the Finland girls. There

was a hint also given me, that the sale of the horse's forage made the pay rather better than elsewhere. Each man could make a hundred roubles a year, which must be vast wealth in the eyes of a Russian soldier, and at the end of their five years' servitude, many of them that had come in rags returned tolerably well appointed. We entered the barrack-yard, which displayed nothing of a military cast but the mustaches of some twenty men, of every height, from five feet four to six feet two, with high cheek bones, and wrapped up in sheepskin pelisses down to the knees. Some sharp bargaining was going on between the soldiers and a Finlander, who had brought a horse, for which he asked about seven guineas. It was easy to see that he had come to the wrong market, and, after more than one of the Cossacks had mounted and driven the horse round the yard with the help of that most persuasive instrument, the 'nitraika,' the peasant turned sulkily away, to look for some less difficult customer. They civilly showed us the stables, and pointed out two of their horses as coming from the Don. They were the two that had the ugliest heads of the whole lot, a quality in which they perfectly resembled their owners. Not more than one or two men were in uniform, which was merely a short blue jacket and wide trousers of the same colour, with a stripe down the side. Besides their sword, musket, pistols, and lance, the 'nitraika,' or whip, is no mean weapon. It might not unaptly be called a flail, and is as often applied to their enemy's person as their own horse. The thong, of plaited leather, is of the same length and thickness as the stick, and it does not yield much to it in stiffness. It is secured by a loop to the wrist, and, when wielded by an experienced hand, might, without much difficulty, break a man's arm."

Ofvre Tornea, the first town or village at which Mr. Dillon arrived on his route northwards, is somewhat celebrated as the first place where the sun can be seen at midnight at Midsummer, and men of all nations not unfrequently meet on a hill near the village, to see the sun touch the horizon and rise again. Mr. Dillon picked up some anecdotes current there relating to the visits of his countrymen:—

"A Swede, who held an office in the district of Lulea, and, therefore, had often been present on the spot, told me of one who came galloping up a quarter of an hour before the time. My informant having been in England, and speaking English, invited him to join his party, who were going to have a collation, but our countryman was in too great a hurry for such diversions, and excused himself. He, at the same time, ordered his servant to bring out a bottle of champagne that had been shaken the whole way from St. Petersburg, and waiting till the critical moment, when the sun was, if we may use the expression, both setting and rising, tossed off a bumper, sprang into his carriage, and returned without more delay to the place whence he came. Another individual was not so lucky. Twice he arrived at the place the day after the time. Yet, if he was slow, he cannot be accused of want of perseverance; a third time he went over the same long journey, and, by an exertion of all his energies, contrived to arrive at the well-known place some hours before the time required. Such a labour, however, rather exhausted him, and he lay down to rest, leaving an order with his servant to call him a few minutes before midnight. He was accordingly summoned as he had desired, but, probably, he was dreaming about other things than what he was come to see; for, saying 'd—n the sun—see him to-morrow,' he turned himself in his bed, and fell again into a sound sleep. I have not heard whether he has made a fourth attempt, or whether he is, like Vanderdecken, doomed to pass his life in pursuit of an object which he will never accomplish."

After leaving Ofvre Tornea there are no regular post-houses, but the peasants drive to a farm-house. Here is a description of one:—

"A large fire blazed that made even the great room uncomfortably warm. Divers trades were going on in different parts of it; in one corner a man was finishing a set of harness; in another, the runners of a sledge were receiving the peculiar curve that distinguishes them in Finland; and a number of lasses, with their shoulders troubled with very little cloth-

ing, were keeping half-a-dozen spinning-wheels in constant motion. As soon as they perceived that I wanted a relay, one of the girls put on a little jacket, and, without waiting to button it over her breast, ran to a house a quarter of a mile off to fetch a horse. * *

"I entered few houses where there were not shelves on each side of the fire, bearing forty or fifty birch pans, filled with cream, an inch thick; and they contrive to continue making butter the whole winter through. The houses are not dirty, though the rooms are generally darkened by smoke. In lieu of candles, they use laths of fir, planted obliquely in a stand; these give a cheerful but unsteady light, and require replacing every second minute. Although labouring under such disadvantages, both as regards soil and climate, their state is infinitely preferable to that of the Irish. Their habitations are roomy, built of wood, and furnished with glass windows; they themselves are comfortably clothed and industrious."

At Muonio-Niska sledge travelling begins:

"The sledge used with reindeer is in general called 'kerres,' that which is used for travelling, and which is decked over the fore-part, is distinguished by the name of 'pulka.' In shape it resembles a small sea-boat the stern of which has been cut off and replaced by an upright board. It is klinker built, with a broad keel, and sufficiently high behind to support the back. From stem to stern it is scarcely more than four feet long, and just wide enough to admit one person of moderate dimensions. It is dragged by a trace of deer-skin, fastened to the bottom of a collar of the same material. This is passed between the fore and hind legs of the deer, and is made fast to the head of the boat. A single rein of plaited deer's sinews, or walrus-hide, serves at once to guide and to drive him on. Should he flag, it is easy to quicken his pace, by drawing it sharply along his side. The thong is not fastened to his horns, as is generally supposed, but round his head, and it is sufficient to throw it over to his right side to make him move on. The traveller is usually bound in the sledge with cords, which prevent his being dislodged when the pulka is thrown on its side, an event of hourly occurrence with beginners. With such tackle it is a doubt which is the greatest feat, driving a postchaise a whole stage without a pole, or bringing a pulka down a steep descent at a gallop, without reaching the bottom before the deer. With regard to the deer, none that I saw were larger than the common English fallow deer. Those in Russian Lapland, near Kola, are said to be much taller, while the wild ones in Spitzbergen, though exceedingly fat, are much inferior in size. All, however, are much stouter in the limbs than any of the same family, and have feet peculiarly formed for the climate they inhabit. The hoofs do not look remarkably large when raised off the ground, yet each time they strike the snow, spread so as to cover a greater surface than a bullock's foot. By this formation they are enabled, with their comparatively light carcasses, to traverse wilds of untrodden snow, sinking scarce four inches, where a horse would be irretrievably lost. It has been remarked that no animal is so difficult to keep alive out of his native country as the reindeer. The limits of the regions suited to his nature are more narrowly defined than those of any other known creature. It is difficult to keep him as far south as Stockholm; the warmth of the climate even there being too great for him. I nevertheless think that there is still a greater difficulty to be overcome than that of climate, to which he might be hardened, after a few generations. The spreading of their feet would make moving over a hard, dry surface a very toilsome exercise. In their own country the snow has scarce time to melt before it again covers the soil, and, during the short interval that it is bare, they tread chiefly on soft morasses."

We have now an account of a night halt:—

"We here found a farm by the side of a lake, and were put into a small detached room, in which we were to pass the night. The quarters were not very agreeable, from the numerous fissures in the walls through which the wind rushed in. With the help of a hatchet, we cut off some pieces of a haunch of venison, and turned them into most unsatisfactory chops; for my companion had lost his cooking-vessels, and in broiling the meat we found that the outside was burnt to a cinder before the inside was

thawed. The people of the house added some excellent milk and large flat sheets of bread. This part of the feast we found so like sawdust that we dispensed with it, in the shape of food, and used it, as the Trojans of old, instead of plates."

The reindeer, says Mr. Dillon, so far from galloping, as he is usually represented, with his head up, like the leader in a Brighton stage, generally trots, with his head low, and an appearance of extreme distress:—

"His mouth he keeps open, and, by his excessive panting, leads one unacquainted with his habits, to suppose that he will drop down dead in a few minutes. Yet nothing is more deceptive; for I have driven a deer, who exhibited all these symptoms while yet in sight of the starting-place, seventy miles in the course of the day, without finding that he was more exhausted the following day. It is his hardness and ability to provide himself with food, whatever be the depth of the snow, that render him valuable. In this last respect he surpasses even the camel, for he never dies of want, and rarely of fatigue."

The resting-places of the party were regulated by the possibility of obtaining moss:—

"It is curious," says Mr. Dillon, "to see the deer feed on these occasions; for, though not disengaged from the 'pulkas,' as soon as they scent the moss beneath the snow, they begin scraping it aside with the fore foot, and in a few seconds dig through four or five feet to the ground. Sometimes there is so much snow, that they disappear in the holes they have made, and their horns alone are seen, while the 'kerres' remains above them on the surface. In later years, the reindeer have occasionally suffered severely from the mildness of the weather. This happens when the surface of the snow is first thawed, and afterwards rendered impenetrable by a crust formed by a subsequent frost. The poor animals are thus unable to get at their only food, and die in great numbers."

The average life of the reindeer is about sixteen years.

"It is only during winter that these animals enjoy any comfort, as even moderate cold is insufficient for their nature. The great heat of their northern summer subjects them to much pain, and brings with it their special plague in the form of a gadfly (*æstrus tarandi*). Linnaeus, in his *Flora Lapponica*, describes the mode in which this insect tortures the reindeer. About the beginning of July the latter shed their coats, at which time the hair on the back is erect. The *æstrus* flutters the whole day over the herd, and takes the opportunity of dropping on them an egg, scarcely the size of a mustard seed. The state of the coat at this season favours its admission, and protected by the heat of the part, a larva is produced that finds its way into the flesh, and continues there the winter, increasing to the bulk of an acorn. As the warm weather comes on, it becomes restive, and worries the poor animals almost to madness, till it has eaten its way through the skin. Six or eight of these tormentors, and sometimes even more, fall to the share of each deer; the young ones, after their first winter, are most subject to their attacks, and Linnaeus adds that a third or fourth part of the calves fall victims to this complaint, which is known among the inhabitants by the name of *kurbma*. As soon as an *æstrus* is observed fluttering about, the greatest confusion exhibits itself in the herd; they fly from the obnoxious insect running against the wind, and driving from them any unfortunate individual who has received the unlucky windfall. While suffering under the irritation of the gnawing, they rush madly into the sea, and feel some relief while under water. On this account, many of the Laplanders keep near the shores of the Icy Sea during the summer, and only return to the interior about September."

We shall now give a picture of true Lapland travelling:—

"After proceeding along the river Alten, between sixteen and twenty miles, we left it to continue its course through ravines, and began the ascent of the mountains. The cold was intense, and the weather rather stormy; but, fortunately the wind blew on our backs, and except when a sudden turn presented our sides to the blast, we escaped much inconvenience.

A few seconds, however, in this situation was sufficient to cover our faces with a mask of congealed drift, and form-icicles from our eyelashes. At one time the wind rose to a whirlwind, and it was with the greatest difficulty that we could keep in sight of one another. We stopped twice in the course of the day, but found no moss, and were obliged to proceed without feeding the deer. * * After the short interval of daylight the journey became very wearisome; as, besides the cattle being hungry and tired, a mist arose which prevented us forming any idea of anything around us. * * From a reverie of this kind we were roused by several voices which we heard around us, but we were some time discovering whence they arose. At length we distinguished dim forms of reindeer, which extended on each side of us as far as the eye could pierce the haze, and we learned that they belonged to a train of two hundred sledges that were crossing the mountains, conveying merchandise from the coast to the interior. Caravans of this kind are continually traversing the country, which could not be supplied at any other season of the year, as the reindeer is of little use for carrying burdens. Each reindeer draws two hundred pounds after him, and a string of ten requires the care of only one man; they are each tied to the sledge that precedes them, and follow in Indian file. The usual way in which a reindeer evinces his fatigue now began to show itself. The leader who drew the Wapphus's sledge kept continually running off the track, and as often the driver was obliged to jump out and drag him by the rein into the right road. As the whole suite followed every step of the leader, on several occasions the tail of the train got entangled with its head, and more than once the reindeer that formed the centre were taken off their legs by a sudden jerk from those before and behind them, and dragged some fifty yards on their sides. One awkward deer, I remember, got the thong that held him entangled round both one of his antlers and fore-foot, and in this helpless state was carried along, half throttled, till he was released by the horn breaking off. At last, after an indefinite number of hours, we reached our halting-place. Winding a watch, or even taking it out of the pocket was quite out of the question, as the hands became frosted by exposure without gloves, even for a few minutes. Considering, however, that we had travelled seventy miles since morning, it could not be less than eleven or twelve o'clock when we heard the welcome news that we had finished our day's work. I was dozing at the time, keeping just sufficiently awake to balance the sledge, when we came to a standstill, and the Wapphus released my deer; as the thong which I steered him by was twisted round my wrist, I was soon thoroughly awakened by his half hauling me out of the pulka, inside which I was laced by cross ropes. I naturally looked round to survey my resting-place for the night, but was some time before I discovered a sort of circular trench within which the ground rose to an apex, perhaps three feet higher than the surrounding plane. By this time the Wapphus having disengaged my companion offered to conduct us to the 'gamma,' as it is called in Finmark. In the side of the trench, upon closer examination, there appeared a doorway, about four feet high, which led into a vestibule of corresponding grandeur. When I had crept into this place, for the accumulation of snow inside made it impossible to enter in a more dignified manner, I found a little door which opened into a room about twelve feet square. The roof sloped up to an opening in the middle, which served to let the smoke out. Four upright posts with crossbeams occupied the centre, where the fire was to be made, and the kettles to be hung. * * When the company had sat down round the blaze, the kettles were brought out, and frozen reindeer's meat chopped up, and partially thawed. A very substantial meal of meat and broth was soon prepared, and several long pulls at the brandy-bottles took off the chill from the party. * * Now that the cravings of hunger were appeased, and each had wedged in his body so as to have a sight of the fire, we became sensible of one inconvenience which, however grave, had as yet been unnoticed. The fresh fuel collected in the neighbourhood caused a most awful smoke. Every part of the gamma was filled with it, and it was impossible to sit in comfort; as for standing up, it was out of the question, as there

was immediate danger of being stifled. Once or twice I was obliged to rush out into the open air, but was soon driven back to the hut by the bitterness of the cold. Nothing, however, could inconvenience the natives, and gradually the labours of the day, aided by their potations, sent them to sleep. The group was curious, and I never saw a heap of human bodies jumbled together in such glorious confusion. As the area of the gamma, unoccupied by the embers, was far from sufficient for the number who required a place, many lay with others piled on their legs, and with their faces within a very few inches of the fire. * * When I awoke, the fire was out, and the remains of last night's supper frozen hard in the kettles. My limbs were stiff with cold, and ached from the uncomfortable position in which I had passed the night."

The extreme northern point reached by Mr. Dillon was Altengaard. While there he made an excursion to our countrymen established at Alten—to one of whom we were indebted for the table of Meteorological Observations, the chief results of which we published some time since (No. 594). In speaking of Alten, Mr. Dillon observes, "Fourteen years back, this spot was uninhabited; it now presents the agreeable spectacle of an industrious community, located in buildings far better than those in the surrounding country, and exhibiting no sign of want." There are, it appears, no less than 1,100 persons in all, employed by this company. Here Mr. Dillon met, and subsequently travelled with, an intelligent clergyman:—

"He was a Norwegian of much information, and very partial to everything English. As all ecclesiastical benefices are in the gift of the government in Norway, the younger clergymen are first appointed to the most remote livings, and after some six or seven years residence in these hyperborean regions, are transferred to other parishes more desirable in point of climate. Some parishes, however, are not so had in regard to revenue. The living of Talvick, in which Kaasford is situated, produces, in years when the fishery succeeds, about three thousand specie dollars, equivalent to six hundred pounds a year. My new acquaintance had begun his career by the lowest step of the ladder, for his parish is the most northern in the world. Happening to ask him, whether he did not find his duty very laborious, 'My parish,' said he, 'is probably larger than many German principalities. The North Cape and Koutokeino, which are 240 miles apart, are both within its limits; my life resembles much that of a skipper, for I am more than half the year away from my family, travelling over deserts, and living amongst half-savages.' Yet, with all these disadvantages, he seemed a contented, and was certainly a very good-humoured gentleman."

But the income derived from some of these "pastorats" is wretchedly small, and wholly inadequate to the support of the clergyman, who is compelled to have recourse to trade to obtain enough even for a subsistence. Mr. Dillon's fellow-traveller was a fortunate man, who had risen to his present station, and was now about to visit Koutokeino for the double purpose of confirming the young and collecting his dues.

"After he had preached a sermon in the little wooden church," says Mr. Dillon, "I went to pay him a visit, and found him surrounded by several men and women who had come from the country around to settle their accounts with him. On this score each chief of a family pays yearly one haunch and shoulder, with the skin, tongue, and suet of a reindeer, besides fees for baptism and marriage. As each individual laid his offering at the feet of the clergyman, he was presented with a dram, and I marked that the women were those who objected least to this part of the proceeding."

This clergyman, as before mentioned, was well acquainted with English, had read 'Childe Harold' in the original, and was curious, it appears, to know "whether Madame Vestris's legs deserved the praise that had been bestowed on them."

The Real and the Ideal: or Illustrations of Travel. 2 vols. Saunders & Otley.

WE defy the most adroit professors of the school of Cædipus, to divine the meaning concealed under this fantastical title-page, or to discover the one fact necessary to be disclosed, that it is the herald of another addition to the thousand books already printed about Italy. Nevertheless, the brick is, in a certain sense, a sample of the edifice: for both are alike affected and obscure. Seldom, indeed, have we perused any thing more vaporous, dreamy, or undefined, than the rhapsody of disconnected thoughts, arising by the loosest associations from facts barely hinted at, or obscurely stated, which makes the staple of these volumes. The style, too, is not less remarkable than the matter, being equally abrupt, obscure and incomprehensible. We say this with Mr. Carlyle's 'Charlism' strong in our recollection; to which work, indeed, the present publication may be compared, for its departure from what should be the end of all writing—intelligibility. Whether this coincidence be the effect of imitation, or that the Idealist has set up an independent affectation of his own, he does not inform us. There is, indeed, nothing in the way of preface leading to any conclusion concerning the author, who drops upon us as from the clouds, without preliminary warning. In a case like the present, this is not quite fair, either to the reader or the work; for on finding ourselves in the very first page involved in a lengthy rhodomontade, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing, we were powerfully provoked to fling the work aside; and we think many so tempted will not rise superior to the temptation. Notwithstanding, however, these vagaries and conceits, the author is evidently one who has brought considerable reading, and some reflection, to his task; and who has looked upon Italy through the medium of a lively imagination and a feeling heart. It is, in truth, to the excess of these qualities that we apparently owe the strange mixture of "reality" derived *ab extra*, with the "ideality" from within, to which the title-page alludes: a mixture however, which, instead of constituting the charm of the work, has rendered it all but unreadable. That, which should have been the little heaven which leaveneth the whole, and transforms it into wholesome and palatable nutriment, is so overpowering that its fermentation is utterly destructive. Instead of raising before the mind's eye clear and defined images of external objects, upon which the fancy can dwell, while we ponder upon a consequence, the facts rise and disappear with the rapidity and disorder of a kaleidoscope, being alluded to as things familiar, rather than described and identified; and they are so overloaded with thick-coming suggestions, moral, philosophical, and historical, succeeding without method, coming like shadows and so departing, that attention is utterly foiled. Like the vexed and fiery Hotspur, the author

—apprehends a world of figures, here,
But not the form of what he should attend.

Yet, like Hotspur, he is full of lofty purpose and generous sentiment. He does not look upon Italy as a mere museum of pictures and statues, or a haunt of fashionable idleness,—as an European show-box, or a Circæan garden of voluptuous amusement,—but he views it as the home of human beings having rights and claims on their fellow creatures, and as a mighty monument of the past—a volume from which philosophy may draw safe and trustworthy maxims for the guidance of the present. The author's design, we must admit, was not to be demonstrative or descriptive. It is not his purpose to view things in detail, for the instruction of the ignorant; but rather to present large and complex pictures of objects having an ideal identity; and to this end, he appeals only to the previously well in-

formed spectator, prepared to fill up the outlines he neglects. Lombardy, Florence, Rome, and Naples, he regards as having each their especial physiognomy, physical, historical, and moral, with which he takes it for granted that his readers are acquainted; and, fully satisfied that they can enter into his mind, and follow its doublings, he pours forth the ideas which this physiognomy had excited, in all the disconnexion of a reverie, and almost without regard to sequence or arrangement. We cannot, therefore, reproach him with not filling out his own design; but we must say that his method circumscribes the utility of his work within the smallest possible compass. There are many who require to have their recollection of facts revived by ampler details: there are more who know nothing of Italian art or Italian history; and to whom a subject thus treated is a sealed volume. As a specimen of the rambling incoherency of the style of the work, of the writer's habit of likening things unlike, his passive yielding to successive associations of the loosest analogy, his absolute want of all logical control over thought, let us quote the very opening paragraph:—

"Rise! rise! ye feathered tribes; unfold the fates, ye birds of omen, to a would-be Aruspex. Ye birds of liberty, mind not man, reveal me reason; hover in the air, warble in the skies, skim the plains, hoot among ruins, scream amid deserts. Let your heavenly choir dictate to me. Be ye to me the company of angels, which the listening and enraptured St. Cecilia heard in heaven; let me follow you to Naples, which once seen, a human being may die; and where the phoenix among you on Vesuvius may make his funeral pyre. First in soaring flight commit me to the eagle, when I would touch the Alp, the cradle of its infancy; and not like Icarus in the sea, be dropped in the ocean lake below; freedom's fountain,—where, bird, thou wast baptized; and where the geni of liberty, in ancient reminiscences, are placed like sculptured figures around its edge. Situated amidst the troubled, the tumultuous, and the threatening, where mountains upon mountains rise aristocrats of earth, fixed giants of a stormy ocean, the earth above is all commotion, the water beneath is all tranquillity. Creeping forth from the frown of fierce Alpine brows, that throw their dark threatening shadows across, as if menacing to bury it beneath them, the Leman preserves its look of peace, constant and uniform, until it spreads out amidst garden and pastures, the gentle and smooth champaign, the laughing country; looking like the large blue eye of a maiden, dozing with half-closed lids, until opening wide, it sparkles amid a face full of delight. Sometimes the mountain shadows throw their giant lengths across the lake; clouds pass over the surface of the waters, like dreams across the visage of beauty, until the sun coming out awakens her; and answering the looks of a lover, having assurance in his regards, she chases away her fright. But more than mortal—it is the orb of a goddess, the blue look of Minerva beaming intelligence under the dark black brow of the rising mountains, the white forehead of snow, and golden casquet gilded by the sun."

Surely this is mere midsummer madness. However, having said thus much, in the way of criticism, we shall proceed to extract a passage or two for the benefit or amusement of our readers. The following summary of the fortunes of Painters is at once curious and melancholy:—

"One must confess that if the poets were an order of beings of too great sensibility for this world, the painters laboured still more under this malady of genius. Zoppo, a sculptor, having accidentally broken the chef d'œuvre of his efforts, destroyed himself. Chendi poisoned himself because he was only moderately applauded for the decorations of a tournament. Louis Caracci died of mortification because he could not set right a foot in a fresco, the wrong position of which he did not perceive till the scaffolding was taken away. Cavedone lost his talent from grief at his son's death, and begged his bread from want of commissions. Schidone, inspired with the passion of play, died of despair to have lost all in one night. There was one who languished,

and was no more, seeing the perfection of Raphael. Torrigini, to avoid death at the hands of the Spanish Inquisition, put an end to himself, having broken to pieces his own statue of the Virgin; an avaricious hidalgo who had ordered it, higgling at the price. Bandinelli died losing a commission for a statue; Daniel de Volterra from anxiety to finish a monument to Henry IV. of France. Cellini frequently becomes unwell in the course of his studies, from the excitement of his feelings. When one sums up the history of painters with the furious and bloody passions of a Spagnoletto, and Caravaggio, Tempesta, and Calabrese, one must suppose all their sensibilities much stronger than those of the rest of mankind."

The Idealist's comparison between the two Florentine Venuses, besides affording a specimen of his manner, has the merit of containing some truth:—

"From the ancient, turn to the modern Venus; from the Medicean, to the Venus of Canova; she seems the slave attending the celestial to the bath; a grace truant from her sisters; a Psyche taken from her Cupid, not allowed to go out of sight of his mother. How shall we descend to the expression of her mortality, succeeding to the divinity of the former? Assuming none of the divine traits of her original, she bends fearful of the water; or, watchful of some fellow-man's intrusion, not recollecting the gods' free admission, she covers herself, shivers in the cold, and shrinks from the gaze which may steal a sight of all that modern ages have condemned to take the veil; an undressed beauty, who never knew nakedness—not a Venus, whose nature is divinity unparalleled. She knows no natural loveliness, no natural right thus to be exposed; she seems to wish to escape from an uncommon circumstance; she looks the shamed Eve, having lost her innocence; not the goddess who knows no sin but the contradiction of her will. * * The Venus di Medicis is an emblem of the republic; the way it stood free and regarded its enemies. The Venus of Canova, when under sovereign power a veil was thrown over the unhappy person of the state, and it tried to conceal, not to defend its nakedness and change of situation. The same artist has clothed his Italy weeping over the tomb of Alfieri; her garment should be of black marble, the colour of the robe thrown over the victims for execution. The goddess in the National Gallery, standing in the tribune, surrounded by the magnates of art, represents in all its splendour the republic—not the magnificence of one sovereign, but a constellation of glory in many citizens. The Venus of Canova in the palace, and having an apartment to herself, brings to the recollection, in all its melancholy, the subsequent monarchical power of Florence, and the consequent desert around."

Connected with literature, we have a chapter on travellers in a golden age, tending to prove that Horace went his journey to Brundisium in a state of irksome poverty and degrading dependence, being in comforts and consideration upon a near level with the Parasites of ancient comedy. This chapter is altogether a curiosity of gossiping literature; but no skill in selection, and care in weaving together detached thoughts and speculations, would enable us to present anything like a simple and coherent argument. Indeed, after numberless failures in this and other instances, we have abandoned all such attempts in despair. Yet we rise from the perusal of the work with a conviction that the author means well, that he thinks liberally, and sympathises freely with humanity: though of his particular opinions we can form no judgment, because he never dwells upon any, long enough to give more than a partial and one-sided view of it. We perceive what he thinks in connexion with some particular fact or association; but we have no guarantee that some other loose analogy, some other figure of speech or poetic image, may not lead him to another and most opposite inference. Positive instances indeed of such contradiction, in thought and feeling, are sufficiently frequent in the work to justify this suspicion. As a reasoner, indeed, he wants the power of con-

vincing; as a candidate for literary reputation, he has forfeited the privilege of interesting. He has within himself the elements of both these excellencies; but by a fatal error of taste, he has wasted his natural endowments, in producing a work which will pass at once, unread, to a merited oblivion;—useless to the world, and a disappointment to himself.

Prince Albert, and the House of Saxony. By F. Shoberl, Esq. Colburn.

Prince Albert, his Country and Kindred. Ward & Co.

ON the marriage of Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg with the Princess Charlotte, Mr. Shoberl published an 'Historical Account of the House of Saxony.' The alliance of Her Majesty with Prince Albert naturally suggested a re-issue of the work, with such alterations and additions as were required to bring down the information to the present time. The little volume is far superior to what, under the circumstances, we should have anticipated, and has been compiled with very creditable care; and in proof of its general accuracy, we may mention that Mr. Shoberl received, on its first publication, from the King of Saxony, and in testimony of his approbation, the gold medal of Civil Merit. We, of course, shall only concern ourselves with the memoir of Prince Albert, brief and eventless though it must necessarily be:—

"Born in 1819, very few months after his royal cousin, to whom he is now united, He received the rudiments of instruction at the ducal palace of Ehrenburg, where he was daily attended by eminent professors of the College of Coburg, and other masters. His father, who, even in a private station, would be considered a highly accomplished man, himself superintended with affectionate anxiety the education of his sons; and on his separation from his consort, he was induced to place Albert, the younger, under the care of his aunt, her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent. The young prince then resided for some time at Kensington, and at Claremont with his uncle Leopold, sharing the lessons given to his cousin, the princess, in music and other sciences. An early attachment was thus insensibly formed; each had abundant opportunity of gaining an acquaintance with the other's character and qualities; and that bond of affection, which links together so closely all the members of the house of Coburg,—a house to which, through her mother, the Queen in fact, belongs,—may well be supposed to have strengthened that predilection which she is said to have entertained for the prince, ever since maturing years and judgment have led to the serious consideration of a matrimonial alliance. On the marriage of his father to the Princess Mary of Württemberg, in December 1832, Prince Albert returned home, and resumed his studies agreeably to the plan of education laid down by the duke. Such was the progress he made that, before he had completed his seventeenth year, he was deemed qualified to remove with his brother to the university of Bonn, where these princes not only attended the public lectures on the classics and classical literature, moral philosophy, mathematics, politics and political economy, history and statistics, but were attended by several private teachers of the ornamental accomplishments. Here, too, he had a most desirable opportunity for improving himself in English, the correct accent of which he had already acquired during his previous residence in this country. While at the university, Prince Albert was a general favourite, for his amiable manners, his engaging conversation, and the propriety of his conduct. It was during his stay at Bonn, too, that he published, for the benefit of the poor, a collection of poems, some of which have been set to music by his brother Prince Ernest. We are assured that these productions are equally creditable to the head and the heart of the youthful poet; and the object to which they were dedicated affords sufficient proof of the benevolence of his nature. In July 1838, the brothers accompanied their father to England to attend the coronation of her Majesty, and at Michaelmas in the same year, having completed their studies

at Bonn, they returned to Coburg, where they were received with universal demonstrations of joy. Preparations were soon made for a tour to Italy, and in December the princes set out, attended by Baron Stockmar, who has been for many years confidentially employed in the affairs of the house of Coburg. The travellers were accompanied by the duke to Munich, where the most marked honours were paid to them, public rumour having already proclaimed the brilliant destinies that awaited Prince Albert. The rest of the winter was spent in Italy, and on their way home the princes visited Vienna. The first object that met Albert's eye on entering his apartments in the palace of Ehrenburg, was the portrait of Queen Victoria, arrayed in the robes and decorated with the insignia of royalty, worn on the first prorogation of the British Parliament, painted at the express command of her Majesty, by Chalon, and engraved by Cousins. This present, transmitted to Coburg by the Queen, during his absence, produced a surprise the more agreeable, as his highness had received no previous intimation of its arrival. In England rumour had for some time pointed out Prince Albert as her Majesty's consort; and the belief in the accuracy of the report was strengthened by a visit paid to this country by the king of Belgium, and the subsequent arrival of the young prince himself, during the autumn of 1839."

Her Majesty's declaration to the Privy Council soon set the question at rest.

"On the 8th of December, official intelligence of these proceedings having reached Coburg, the court, the ministers, and other high functionaries, and the deputies of the states of the duchies of Coburg and Gotha, met in the hall of the throne, in the palace of Ehrenburg; and the reigning duke and duchess, with the princes Ernest and Albert, having entered, the following proclamation was read aloud:—

"By order of his Highness the reigning Duke. His Highness the reigning duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, convinced of the sincere interest which his faithful subjects take in every thing concerning the ducal house, has thought proper to call around him the deputies of the states and the high functionaries, to announce the betrothal of his younger son, Prince Albert, with her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland. His Highness is happy in being able to express his firm conviction that, with the noble qualities of heart and mind of her Majesty, this union will, with the divine aid, secure the happiness of his son, who will consecrate all his efforts to his new country, but who, even when distant from his native land, will retain for it a profound sentiment of love and interest."

While the prime minister, Baron von Carlowitz was reading this proclamation, the cannon of the fortress and the military bands announced the auspicious event to the people. We are assured that, as soon as the union between the sovereign of the British empire and Prince Albert was finally arranged, the Prince, who had in the course of last year been declared of age, and put in possession of property bequeathed to him by his mother, which produces a revenue of 28,000 florins, or about 2,400l. sterling per annum, granted pensions to several persons who had belonged to his household, and then transferred the estate to his brother, the hereditary prince."

The rest is known; and we have only to express our earnest hope that the alliance may tend to the mutual happiness of the parties, and to the well-being of the nation.

As to 'Prince Albert, his Country and Kindred,' it is a mere catchpenny affair. The chapter on his 'Country' is, indeed, curious as a specimen of literary mosaic,—it is literally made up of quotations,—and even the former edition of Mr. Shoberl's work has contributed its fair, or rather unfair proportion.

Continental India: Travelling Sketches and Historical Recollections, &c. By J. W. Massie, M.R.I.A. London, Ward.

SOME of the best accounts we possess of newly discovered countries have been published by missionaries; their vocation imposes upon them habits of minute observation, they soon learn that the religion of every tribe is intimately con-

nected with its policy, its morals, and with all the customs of public and private life; and consequently, that in order to fulfil the duties of their office they must not pass over any observance as too trifling for investigation. Missionary habits are not equally favourable for the examination of a country so long known and so often described as India; all that is fixed in that land has been long familiar to the public; the nature and tendency of its progress, which alone possess fresh interest, are viewed by the missionary either through the medium of hope or fear, and he is thus led to record not so much what he sees as what he wishes to see. The success of the various Christian missions in India has not been at all proportionate to the expectations of their ardent supporters, and a warping influence is produced by the anxiety of the missionary to account for past failures and to incite to fresh exertions. Mr. Massie, or his editor, has yielded entirely to this influence, and hence his statements cannot be received without some scrutiny and caution.

Another circumstance is still more suspicious; there is manifestly a designed absence of dates; but, from incidental circumstances, we learn that Mr. Massie remained but a short time in India, and that some years have elapsed since his return. A close examination of the book further suggests that his notes were originally meagre, that they had been long laid aside, and that they have been recently extended into two goodly octavos, either by Mr. Massie or some professor in the art of book-making. An inflated style is usually adopted to conceal poverty of thought or information; and certainly an author had occasion for such a veil who describes the Academy as "the groves of Hecademus," refers to the well-known hill of the Areopagus as "a handsome structure and Grecian fane," and classes Akbar and Aurungzib with the invaders of India. We regret that we have been compelled to use these words of censure, for Mr. Massie is a man of right feeling; he has described well enough what came under his personal observation; and had he confined himself to telling what he saw, instead of dissertating on what he conjectured, his book would have gained in quality what it lost in quantity, that is, in a ratio of about seven to one. His sympathy for the condition of the Hindú peasantry is highly honourable to him; the following account briefly describes their state and "the mild and merciful government" to which they are subjected:—

"In 1833, famine prevailed in the Bombay and Madras presidencies, during which the destruction was awful. More than 150,000 miserable creatures fled from their country to seek in the neighbourhood of the capitals the means of sustaining life. Myriads perished at home, and on the roads; and, the remnant who did not abandon the country parts and yet continued to sustain life, were reduced to a state of emaciation which defies description. Their personal appearance was scarcely human; their anatomy was nearly as much developed as that of actual skeletons; the articulation of each joint but for the skin might have been traced: their bellies were unnaturally swollen, and their colour was of the deepest jet. These were British subjects, who had been taken under control, and made tributaries to the support of government; whose land was taxed so highly, that no more than seven sixteenths of the produce went to the husbandmen; and whose fruits of industry could be sold to no other merchant than their irresponsible government; while they had been able to purchase goods in no market but what their rulers furnished. It is a country where the tax and land collector, where the judges and arbiters in all contests or disputes, are the armed conquerors and rulers of the region. Are these rulers, to whom have been committed the destinies of alienated myriads, sufficient for so onerous a responsibility, while politicians and statesmen at home may be alike ignorant and indifferent to the immense inter-

ests at stake? Wise men would fear to assume the power and ascendancy with which eastern rulers, not peculiarly gifted or experienced, have been invested."

It is calculated, on what may be considered authentic data, that the cultivator's share of the gross produce in India, averages between five and six per cent., that is, scarcely more than half what a clergyman in England receives for tithe! Nothing further need be added to show the misery of the rural population. An adventure of Mr. Massie and his companions at Colar, the capital of an extensive province in the Mysore country, will show that matters are not much better in the towns of the interior:—

"We had reached Colar, and had travelled Dawk, or Tappel, that is, we had posted the journey by relays of bearers. We had, therefore, gone far a-head of our Cavadi coolies, the porters who carried our culinary supplies; but we were hungry, and had nothing to eat, and found our only alternative would be to cast ourselves upon the local purveyor. A good fat fowl was roasted upon a wooden spit; rice was boiled in an earthen chattle, or pot; and a curry-stuff was prepared in true Hindoo style. All was ready to be brought in; but we had no table except the convex top of our palanquin; we had no vessel to hold the rice except our wash-hand basin; we had no plates except the leaf of the banian or fig-tree; and no knife, or fork, or spoon, or divider. One took one leg, and another took another, and pulled them asunder, and so with the other parts; we had to dip our fingers into the rice, in native fashion, and mix it with the curry-stuff as we could; the salt was as blue as slate, and as hard almost as granite, and we had to retain it in the mouth till it melted. The supper was not without its amusement; but neither is it without its instruction. Such is the state of domestic comfort in one of the most commercial cities of the Mysore country."

Mr. Massie has failed to observe the "signs of the times," which promise a speedy change in the social and political condition of British India. The rapid improvement of the Cingalese under the enlightened administration of Sir Wilmot Horton, has begun to excite a spirit of emulation in the Presidency of Madras; Bombay, from increased facilities of communication with Europe, is making rapid progress in external commerce and internal civilization; while the people of Calcutta feel that great and continuous exertion is required to maintain their city as a metropolis. India is no longer torpid and motionless: the impulse has been given; progress has commenced; and it is better to wait for authentic facts to judge of this progress, than to indulge in vain speculations and idle conjectures.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Fitzwiggins, by the Author of 'Sydenham.' 3 vols. —Dr. Southey's protégé, John Jones, ought to have edited this tale. It is a story of the second table and the steward's room—the butler's pantry and the world on the tradesman's side of the counter. Perquisites play a distinguished part in it: a lady's-maid is the first woman—a Bath tradesman the "Iago;" while the great world of Park Lane and May Fair is surveyed from the side-board and the porter's black chair. Though there are none among the works of Nature's "prentice han" more distant from our sympathies than those of the shoulder-knot and the fashionable shop—though the book, moreover, exposes a phase of society, from its artifice and ignorance, sickening to contemplate—we do not dislike 'Fitzwiggins.' There is a completeness in the picture, which makes it difficult to believe that the author has not "worn another gentleman's cambric" during some part of his labour of composition—a second-hand humour in the shrewd observations on men and manners, dry and real enough to have come out of the mouth of him who threw up an excellent situation because "master was so dull in the tilbury." But, apart from its value as a picture of peculiar manners, 'Fitzwiggins' has a moral. The *ci-devant* valet, masquerading in Bath as a fine gentleman, is not allowed to carry off the fortune which was his object; and though the jackdaw, having been stripped

of his borrowed plumes, is at last provided with a fit and faithful mate, it is not until long probations and vicissitudes have proved his amendment. Even at the close of the third volume, in the hour of his legitimate prosperity, Fitzwiggins remains but a minor star by the side of the rough and more honest comrade of his boyish poverty, the excellent Tibbetts, who, besides gaining riches, has been promoted—thanks to his own good conduct—to the hand of a genuine city Madam, the Lady Tott,—and to the honours of Aldermanship.

The Beauty of the Heavens, by C. F. Blunt.—This is correctly described as a pictorial display of Astronomical Phenomena exhibited in 104 coloured scenes. The work has been got up with great care, is in itself very beautiful, and likely, we should think, greatly to interest young persons. It will be found a useful assistant to any popular treatise on Astronomy, but is accompanied by a familiar lecture on the science.

List of New Books.—Edgeworth's Parent's Assistant, 3 vols. 18mo. 9s. hf.-bd.—Delicée Literaire, a New Volume of Table-Talk, 18mo. 4s. 6d. cl.—A Treatise on the Sin of Adam, 18mo. 3s. 6d. cl.—Allison's Child's French Friend, 2nd edit. 18mo. 2s. cl.—Allison's La Petite Française, 18mo. 2s. cl.—Vaughan's Sermons, 8vo. 7s. 6d. bds.—Rev. H. Melville's Sermons, Preached at Cambridge, November, 1839, 8vo. 5s. bd.—Museum of Religious Knowledge, 12mo. 6s. cl.—The Spirit of the Church of Rome, by Thomas Stephens, Esq. fc. 8vo. 5s. cl.—Jones's Memoir of the Rev. R. Hill, with Preface, by Sherman, 2nd edit. 12mo. 8s. cl.—Close's Family Prayers, 18mo. 1s. 6d. cl.—Western's Commentaries on the Constitutions and Laws of England, 8vo. 21s. bds.—Neale and Montague on Elections, Part II. 12mo. 7s. bds.—Lush's Practice of the Superior Courts of Law at Westminster, Part I. 8vo. 15s. bds.—Montgomery's Guatemala, 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl.—A Winter in the West Indies, &c. 12mo. 5s. cl.—Chevalier's United States, 8vo. 14s. cl.—De Candolle's Vegetable Organography, Vols. I. and II. 8vo. 14s. each. cl.—Crabbe's Mythology of all Nations, 18mo. 3s. cl.—Prince Albert and the House of Saxony, by F. Shoberl, 8vo. 5s. 6d. cl.—Prince Albert, his Country and Kindred, imp. 8vo. 4s. swd. gilt.—Songs and Ballads, by the Princes Albert and Ernest, translated by G. F. Richardson, Esq. imp. 4to. 12s. bd.—Williams on the Anatomy, Physiology, &c. of the Ear, 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.—Dublin Medical Press, Vol. II. 4to. 13s. 6d.—Follen's Sketches of Married Life, royal 8vo. 1s. 4d. swd.—The Workingman, by Charles Quill, 18mo. 4s. 6d. cl.—Tomlinson's Recreations in Astronomy, fc. 4s. 6d. cl.—Naturalist's Library, Vol. XXVI. "Bees," fc. 6s. cl.—Blomfield's Prometheus Victus, 8vo. 8s. bds.—Major's Initia Homerica, 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl.—Edward's Latin Elegiacs, fc. 3s. cl.—Kenrick's Abridgement of Zumpt's Latin Grammar, 12mo. 3s. cl.—The Christian's Latin Companion, 12mo. 3s. cl.—Baldwin's England, new edit. 12mo. 3s. 6d. bd.—Baldwin's Outlines, 18mo. 1s. hf.-bd.—My Own Library, 8 vols. 64mo. cl. 14s. in case.

THE CROWNED AND WEDDED QUEEN.

WHEN last before her people's face her own fair face she bent,
Within the meek projection of that shade she was content
T'erase the child-smile from her lips, which seemed
as if it might
Be still kept holy from the world to childhood still
in sight—
T'erase it with a solemn vow,—a kingly vow,—to rule—
A priestly vow,—to rule by grace of God the pitiful,—
A very god-like vow—to rule in right and righteousness,
And with the law and for the land!—so God the
vower bless!
The minster was alight that day, but not with fire,
I ween,
And long-drawn glitterings swept adown that mighty
aisled scene:
The priests stood stolid in their pomp, the sworded
chiefs in theirs,
And so, the collared knights,—and so, the civil
ministers,—
And so, the waiting lords and dames—and little
pages best
At holding trains—and legates so, from countries
east and west—
So, alien princes, native peers, and high-born ladies
bright,
Along whose brows the Queen's new crowned, flashed
coronets to light!—
And so, the people at the gates, with priestly hands
on high,
Which bring the first anointing to all legal majesty!
And so the DEAD—who lay in rows beneath the
minster floor,
There, verily an awful state maintaining evermore—

The statesman, with no Burleigh nod, whate'er
court-tricks may be—

The courtier, who, for no fair Queen, will rise up to
his knee—

The court-dame, who, for no court-tire, will leave
her shroud behind—

The laureate, who no courtlier rhymes than "dust
to dust" can find—

The Kings and Queens who having ta'en that vow
and worn that crown,

Descended unto lower thrones and darker, deep
adown...

"Dieu et mon droit"—what is't to them?—what
meaning can it have?—

The King of Kings, the dust of dust—God's judg-
ment and the grave!

And when betwixt the quick and dead the young fair
Queen had vowed,

The living shouted "May she live! Victoria, live,"
aloud—

And as those loyal shouts went up, true spirits pray-
ed between,

"The blessings happy monarchs have, be thine, O
crowned Queen!"

But now before her people's face she bendeth hers
anew,

And calls them, while she vows, to be her witness
thereunto.

She vowed to rule, and in that oath, her childhood
put away—

She doth maintain her womanhood, in vowing love
to-day.

O, lovely lady!—let her vow!—such lips become
such vows,

And fairer goeth bridal wreath than crown with
vernal brows!

O, lovely lady!—let her vow!—yea, let her vow to
love!

And though she be no less a Queen—with purples
hung above,

The pageant of a court behind, the royal kin around,
And woven gold to catch her looks turned maidenly
to ground—

Yet may her bride-veil hide from her a little of that
state,

While loving hopes, for retinues, about her sweetness
wait!

She vows to love, who vowed to rule—the chosen at
her side—

Let none say "God preserve the Queen!"—but
rather, "Bless the Bride!"

None blow the trump, none bend the knee, none
violate the dream

Wherein no monarch, but a wife, she to herself may
seem!

Or if ye say, "Preserve the Queen!"...oh, breathe
it inward low:

She is a woman, and beloved!—and 'tis enough but
so!

Count it enough, thou noble Prince, who tak'st her
by the hand,

And claimest for thy lady-love, our Lady of the
land!

And since, Prince Albert, men have called thy spirit
high and rare,

And true to truth and brave for truth, as some at
Augsburg were,

We charge thee by thy lofty thoughts, and by thy
poet-mind,

Which not by glory and degree takes measure of
mankind,

Esteem that wedded hand less dear for sceptre than
for ring,

And hold her uncrown'd womanhood to be the
royal thing!

And now, upon our Queen's last vow, what blessings
shall we pray?

None straitened to a shallow crown will suit our lips
to-day.

Behold, they must be free as love—they must be
broad as free—

E'en to the borders of heav'n's light and earth's
humanity!

"Long live she!"—send up loyal shouts—and true
hearts pray between,

"The blessings happy PEASANTS have, be thine, O
crowned Queen!"

ELIZABETH B. BARRETT.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Paris.

I have not often felt greater self-distrust, than in putting in order my notes on the last of many long-desired musical pleasures,—I mean the first and second concerts of the *Conservatoire*. It is, however, without any questionings of conscience that I complain of the *habitat* of the Concerts of this famous orchestra. The *salle* in the Rue Bergère is shabby, and lighted with lamps—not the sun; a proceeding which, as the concerts are held in the daytime, cannot fail to impart to any audience an air as unnatural as that of the gauze and muslin flowers in the Paradis Beaujon,—an artificial garden on the site of Miss Biddy Fudge's Elysium. Of the disproportionate smallness of the room, my sides and elbows gave me proof with a vengeance. There is no plurality of Directors here—there are no strangers' tickets, as at our Philharmonic Concerts; and active courtesy could do no more than cater for me a chair in the box of *MM. les Journalistes*, to secure which it was necessary to go three quarters of an hour before the performance commenced. In this box,—a pill-box it might be called, as being hardly larger than two sedan chairs rolled into one,—were stowed nine critics; as many in another of similar size on the opposite side of the hall. The brotherhood do not restrain themselves from giving full and audacious utterance to the sympathy or antipathy of the moment, careless what ears may be in the neighbourhood. As not a few remarks were, one of the days, launched at the strange Englishman, with a directness of tone and glance not to be mistaken, it is no treachery for your instruction to chronicle one fact, thus derived,—namely, “that the choruses of Handel form a part of the weekly service of the Church in London.” This was positively stated by one of the party; and I may add, that it is not the least signal of the new lights on music in England, to which I have been treated in Paris.

So much for my position. For the sake of brevity, ere offering my remarks on the style of execution at the *Conservatoire*, I commence with the programmes of the two Concerts at which I was present:—

First Concert.			
Overture—'Leonora'	Beethoven.		
Solo, by M. Alexis Dupont, with <i>Oboe obbligato</i> , (M. Vogt), and Chorus, from the 'Fassione' of	Seb. Bach.		
Andante, Violin, (M. Habeneck)	Seb. Bach.		
Psalm	Marcella.		
Chorus from 'Les Indes Galantes'	Rameau.		
Solo, Flute, (M. Dorus)			
Symphony in A	Beethoven.		
Second Concert.			
Overture—'Joan of Arc'	Moscheles.		
Second Caprice for the Piano by Thalberg, preceded by 'La Trille' study, by Döhler, (Mlle. L. Guénée)			
Psalm, (the solos by Mlles. Henry and Demay and M. Alizard)	Handel.		
Fantasia Concertante for two Violins, (the <i>MM. Dancila</i>)	Dancila.		
Scene with chorus 'Alceste,' (the solos by Mlle. Capdeville and M. Derivis)	Gluck.		
Symphony in B flat	Beethoven.		

Each of these schemes, it will be observed, wisely contains little more than half of the music which satiates every Philharmonic Concert audience,—that is, only one overture and one symphony. Each, too, has its share of grand choral music, the only proportionate relief to great orchestral performances; after which an opera *cantabile*, or a flimsy melody with variations,—we have heard such things introduced at the Hanover Square Rooms,—must, by its frivolity, irritate rather than repose the ear. This mixture of orchestral and choral force, suggests a natural and welcome restoration for our two languishing establishments, the Philharmonic and the Ancient Concerts, in their union. To return—from the critical remarks printed in the journals, it would seem as if some new elements had entered into the composition of these concert schemes: possibly the introduction of so much music of the elder schools. I have been glad to believe, from the inspection of more than one programme, that the fathers of French dramatic music are becoming an object of interest and study to their descendants. A more acceptable boon could hardly have been devised than the selections from Gluck and Rameau. For the incomparable sublimity of the former I was prepared; but not in any

fragment bearing the name of the latter, for so much natural and flowing melody, as exists in the chorus from 'Les Indes Galantes,'—a composition with a minor key and a certain sylvan rudeness of humour, as to make me regard with great distrust the wholesale denunciation of Grimm, which has been quoted by many musical historians against Rameau, in excuse for their own want of research. "His taste is always Gothic; and, whether his subject be light or forcible, his style is equally heavy." There is no *motive* by modern French composer, be he piquant or romantic, which has fixed itself in my memory more deeply than this agreeable and characteristic melody by Rameau the *perruque*!

Considered as a machine, the orchestra of the *Conservatoire* must satisfy the most inordinate desires of composer, critic, or dreamer. There is a lustre and a brilliancy in the tone of the body of stringed instrumentalists, arising from their having been all trained in the same school, which, till taught better, I shall believe to be unique. What a *pianissimo con sordini*, for example, did they give to the few final bars of Moscheles' overture!—what an exquisite, but never extravagant, animation, to the subject of the *finale* of the B flat symphony! As regards, too, the entire mass of performers, there is that certainty of their being unable to blunder, which distinguishes them from our choicest orchestras, concerning whom it is unwise to rise higher than the hope that *they will get through*;—that modest hope, even, being not always fulfilled. But—put off the evil day how I will—the opinion must out at last, that I have heard the same Beethoven symphonies far more *Germanly* executed by the inferior materials at Leipzig under Mendelssohn, and by our uncertain London ones under Moscheles. It would seem as if either the conductor of the *Conservatoire* does not possess the entire tradition of that music, or its meaning lies one degree above French grasp, and its feeling one degree deeper than French sympathy can reach. I am inclined to fancy the former, from their admirable orchestral execution of the rich and stately, yet ever expressive, melody of the march in 'Alceste.' But in the overtures to 'Leonora' and 'Joan of Arc,' and in the two symphonies, (more especially that in A,) more than once the ear was put off with frivolity where vivacity alone was required,—more than once a flat exactitude took the place of elegance, as in the theme *à la Chasse* in the A symphony. In the graver melodies again, such as the singing subjects in the slow movements of the same symphony, there was missing that full but easy breadth of delivery, that undulation of tone, which should never reach the point of over-expressing and pushing of certain notes,—an affectation even more fatiguing than positive feebleness,—which German music demands for such fullest development as brings it entirely home to the heart of the listener. The theme of the *scherzo* in the A symphony was made too small, and still not made sprightly enough: while its glorious trio,—one of our most picturesque and imposing specimens of that variety which the master knew how to throw into all his compositions, even when fettered by a proscribed tempo,—wanted that pomp of swelling tones, moving ever, but with a motion at once stately and luxurious enough to befit the gorgeous progress of Cleopatra down the Cydnus, when—

The barge she sat in, like a burnished throne,
Burned on the water: the poop was beaten gold:
Purple the sails, and so perfumed, that
The winds were love-sick with them:—the oars were silver,
Which to the tune of flutes kept stroke, and made
The water which they beat to follow faster,
As amorous of their strokes.

On the other hand, the trio to the minuet of the B flat symphony (to venture another Shakespeare fancy—a strain for Perdita's part in the shearing feast, in the 'Winter's Tale') where the melody is interlaced with quick, bird-like passages for the violins—was given exquisitely, owing to the excessive life and clearness which characterizes the tones of the stringed instruments here, even when throwing out the most fragmentary and delicate phrases. I could add a dozen more examples, but enough have been given to illustrate the nature of my feelings towards this far-famed orchestra. To any one less mechanically perfect, less admirably under control, it would, indeed, be consummate folly to apply tests of which, as it is, many will deny the reasonableness. But it must

not be forgotten, that the most admirable feature of the establishment—its owning only one leader and conductor—in a great measure, precludes the qualifying supposition, that the performances I heard were below the average standard of intelligence and finish.

After having, in a line, commemorated M. Habeneck's consummate performance of the *Adagio* by Bach, I shall say nothing of the *solo* players, for brevity's sake. The vocal performances were anything but satisfactory: the chorus was far from being conscientiously exact in tune—it was devoid, too, of intimate consent and refinement,—both wanting also to the chorus of our own Royal Academy—the English *Conservatoire*. The psalm, by Handel, was taken too fast, and the mercurial propensities of the violins, which were repressed to a classical sobriety in the music of Gluck, were so evident in the enunciation of the theme of its final chorus, as largely to detract from the effect. *MM. Derivis* and *Alizard* excepted, the execution of the vocal solos was positively bad—in some cases offensively false. One young lady, however, *Mlle. Capdeville*, in the part of *Alceste*, gave evidences of a dramatic fervour and elevated conception of that grand music, which ought, on some future day, to lead her to high theatrical excellence.

I intended fully to close this series of letters with some slight notice of the chamber music of Paris, and of the style of instrumental composition apparently the most relished here; but I can now only give, as it were, the heads of a paragraph or two. I have heard some very fine quartet and trio playing—that by the Belgian party, of which M. Seghers is leader, and M. A. Batta violoncello, being the finest. Their execution of the *adagio* especially, was perfection. I have heard, too, a melodious and delicate *MS. pianoforte* trio, by M. Reber, whose symphony, I think, you noticed in the course of last spring, to which, though it be not music of the first class, the severest ear could listen with pleasure. Were it not for these *indices* that a taste for what is sound and established in composition is still alive and active, fears might be entertained for the influence of the thousand delicious fragments now thrown out by instrumental composers of every class, in the shape of studies, preludes, romances, &c. They will now hardly give themselves the trouble to elaborate a rondo—while, as to the good old *sonatas* and other works of like substance,—if the amateur should ask—"Where are they?" Echo answers, "Where?" or (in the Irish fashion) answers, "Here!" from the *quais* and bookstalls, at which the inquirer may buy an armful of Dussek and Steibelt, and other excellent writers, for a very few francs. While, on the one hand, this neglect of construction is not a healthy sign; on the other, the neglect of idea, for the sake of obscure and untried and violent harmonic combinations, seems to me yet more dangerous for the well-being of Music here. Enervated by the relaxation of enterprise on the part of one class of her professors, distorted by the mistaken ambition of another, what form is she next to take? But my task was to record impressions, and not to generalize; and therefore—lest the answer to this inquiry should lend me to fantastic or wearisome lengths in speculation—I will here close these notes on my "hearings" in Paris. H. F. C.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

IN the publishing world this must be considered as the autumn season, when the flowers ripen into fruit. The announcement, indeed, of works not already noticed by us, are few and unimportant. We have heard only of 'Lights and Shades of Military Life,' to be edited by Major-General Sir Charles Napier,—'Camp and Quarters; or, Scenes of Military Life,' by Major Patterson.—'Journey from Sydney to the Australian Alps,' by John Lhotsky, M.D.—'Second and Concluding Portion of 'Democracy in America,' by M. A. de Tocqueville, translated by H. Reeve.—'The History of the Jews,' from the French of M. Depping, by J. M. Stevens.—'Politilysis: an Historical Exposition of the Means by which Revolutions are to be Prevented or Effected'—'A Popular History of Malta'—and 'A Dictionary of Terms used in such Branches of Natural History as are connected with Geology,' by W. Humble, M.D.

† See Athenæum, No. 603.

Among recent publications of interest in France, we may mention one of some novelty and value, on 'Naval Archaeology,' by M. A. Jal, a writer long and well known in the literary and artistic circles of France, and who has devoted to this curious subject twelve years of research and laborious arrangement;—a translation from the Russian of a work giving, under the title of 'Description of the Kirghiz-Kasaks,' an account of the tribes bordering on the country of Khiva, towards which the Russian armies are at present directed:—the first volume of 'A Philosophical History of the Progress of General Zoology,' by M. Victor Meunier, Professor of Comparative Anatomy and General Physiology;—and two new works, by Georges Sand, entitled 'Gabriel' et 'Les Sept Cordes de la Lyre.' A work by M. de Balzac, entitled 'Le Livre des Douleurs,' is also announced as forthcoming;—and another is preparing for press by M. Sainte-Beuve, on the important subject of the existing institutions for public education in France, as compared with those of other nations. New works are also promised by Michel Masson, Alexandre Dumas, Frédéric Soulié, Jules Lecomte, Léon Gozlan, and other popular writers, offering a plentiful store of amusement to the lovers of light literature. A more solid ingredient in the banquet is likely to be a monthly publication by the Bibliophile Jacob, entitled, 'Les Papillons Noirs';—and, among the substantial dishes,—the *pièces de résistance*,—may be mentioned as interesting to Englishmen, —a translation into French, under the "auspices" of M. Arago, as it is stated, of Mr. Lyell's 'New Elements of Geology,' and 'An Essay on the Prosody and Pronunciation of the English Language,' by M. de Gerin-Rose, whose work is said to have been adopted by the University.

"Of works lately published in Germany," says a correspondent, "the more interesting to Englishmen will be, a pamphlet, entitled 'Ideen und Betrachtungen über die Eigenschaften der Musik,' 'Ideas and Views respecting the Properties (or attributes) of Music,' by the Crown Prince of Hanover, Prince George of Cumberland. A new edition of 'The Poetical Works of Immerman,' has also just appeared at Stuttgart. No opinions can be more divided than those of the critics respecting this author. I had expected to find incalculable poetic treasures in his poems; but they seem to me spoiled by conceits. In his 'Guilders Rose' he makes the cold white rose suddenly turn red for joy at the greeting of Death. Another subject for his verse is a youth, to whom, on being led to execution, a rose is thrown by a fair hand, and after his head is cut off, it is found between his teeth. In another poem he makes a mother say to her child that she shall soon die, and the daughter will bloom a little red rose on her grave. Such affectations, however, have their admirers. A novel also, by Ernest Willkommens, called 'Lord Byron ein Dichter leben,' has been just published at Leipzig. Though not quite so bold an attempt as that of H. Koenig's to introduce Shakespeare on the stage, this was not without its difficulties. The poet's life is certainly romantic enough, and does not require much stretch of imagination in the author. Trelawney, Fletcher, Hobhouse, &c., figure in the work, but rather in profile than as full lengths. The eccentric poet's Don Juanisms form the principal features in the scene, which is, in the main, borrowed from his different biographers.—Schindler's long expected 'Life of Beethoven' is announced to appear at Easter."

The Exhibitions at the gardens of the Horticultural Society are announced to take place on the Saturdays of the following dates, viz. May 16th, June 13th, and July 4th. The rules are nearly the same as those of last year, with the exception that the Council have determined to increase the number of medals for exhibitions of heaths and orchidaceous plants; and that a gold Knightian, a gold Banksian, and a large silver medal, shall be offered at each exhibition for the three best collections of fruit of at least three different kinds, in addition to those usually given. The number of tickets allowed to be taken by a fellow, at 3s. 6d. each, are also increased from 18 to 24, if taken by the 7th of April.

The vacancies in the Royal Academy by the deaths of Sir William Beechey, Mr. Rossi, and Mr. Wilkins, have been filled up by the election of Messrs. Maclise, Witherington, and Hart.

All who are interested in the sciences of Astronomy and Meteorology,—and who is not?—will be happy to hear that a committee has been formed at Manchester, and active measures taken there, for the purpose of erecting an Observatory at Higher Broughton, near that town. It is obvious that, for the advancement of these sciences by actual observation, there is required an apparatus far too bulky for a private residence, and too costly for a private individual; such an object therefore can best, perhaps only, be attained by co-operation and subscription: and it is proposed to raise the sum required for carrying the undertaking into effect, by donations, and to support the institution by annual subscriptions. The estimated cost of the building is 3,000*l.*, and of the instruments 2,000*l.*, and there is to be a resident astronomer, with an assistant, whose duty it will be to observe and record the various phenomena of the heavens and the atmosphere, to keep up a correspondence with similar institutions, and to prepare for publication all such information and observations as, from time to time, it may be thought advisable to give to the world. The plans, we are informed, have been submitted to and approved by Sir John Herschel, Prof. Airy, Astronomer Royal, Prof. Challis, and other distinguished men of science.

The French Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres has nominated to the three vacant places of Correspondents of the Institute—M. Pertz, of Hanover, editor of the *Monumenta Germanicæ*, M. Avellino, Conservator of the Museum of Antiquities at Naples, and the Abbe Greppo, of Belle, distinguished by his learned disquisitions on subjects of Archaeology.—Another vacancy has occurred, in the Royal Academy of Medicine, by the death of M. Richeraud, a physician of eminence in Paris, and author of the 'Nouveaux Elémens de Physiologie,' familiar, in its English translation, to classes of readers far more numerous than are embraced by the circles of the profession. While on academical matters we may mention, that M. Berryat-Saint-Prix, Professor at the Faculté de Droit, in Paris, has been elected by the Academy of Moral and Political Science, after a scrutiny which lasted three days, to fill the vacancy in the Section of Jurisprudence, which we announced as having been created by the death of the Duc de Bassano.

M. Didron, whose steps amid the Christian monuments of the East we have from time to time followed, has returned to Paris, bringing with him materials of great interest as the result of his wanderings. He has laid before the Minister of Public Instruction some fragments of Palimpsest monuments, discovered in the Convents of the Meteors and Mount Athos. They are of ancient date, in the Greek tongue, and will, it is said, be readily deciphered, when the faded characters shall have been chemically restored.

We alluded, in our paper of the 25th of January, to excavations of interest making in Rome and its neighbourhood, under the direction of Signor Visconti, as Commissary of Antiquities in that capital. A subsequent letter mentions a new and brilliant result of these labours. In digging, a few days previously, at Cervetri, midway between Rome and Civita Vecchia, a sudden fall of earth exposed to view ten statues, one of the colossal height of thirty feet, all in Greek marble, and said to be of remarkable beauty.

We have lately given many instances of the rage for theatricals which is spreading over Hungary, and deepening all its channels as it goes. The following instance of enthusiasm, and of the energy which it begets, is not the least significant and amusing. The *dilettanti* of Prague, passionate admirers of Meyerbeer's music, recently addressed a petition to the directors of the German theatre in that city, expressing their anxious desire to see the 'Huguenots' brought out; and received for answer, that the only obstacle which prevented a compliance with their wish was, that the state of the finances for the year did not permit the extraordinary expense which must be incurred in the production of the piece in question, and would not amount to less than 12,000 florins (about 1,200*l.*) Immediately on receipt of this answer, the subscribers to the petition held a meeting, and, the next day, transmitted to the theatrical directors 12,000 florins in gold.—We may mention, too, that after some delays, and in compliance with the earnest wish of the Viennese public, this same opera which

had hitherto been represented only on the small and insufficient theatre of the Josephstadt in that city, has been brought out with brilliant success at the Imperial theatre,—with an entire alteration of the libretto, however, and under the new name of 'The Ghibelins at Pisa,' prescribed by the censorship.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, PAUL MALL.

The GALLERY for the EXHIBITION and SALE of the WORKS of BRITISH ARTISTS, is OPEN DAILY, from 10 in the Morning until 5 in the Evening.—Admission, 1*s.*; Catalogue, 1*s.* WILLIAM BARNARD, Keeper.

SPLendid EXHIBITION.—ROYAL GALLERY, ADELPHI-STREET, LOWTHER ARCADE, WEST STRAND.—Electro-Magnetic Locomotive Engine at work—Electrical Eel, the only living specimen in Europe.—Polarization of Light, by Mr. Goldard's Polaroscope.—Dry-hydrogen Microscope.—Steam Gun.—Messrs. Whitworth's Patent Foot-Lathe.—Mr. Curtis's Jacks for lifting Locomotive Engines.—Steam Engines, &c.—Lecture daily on different branches of Physical Philosophy.—Open daily at 10, A.M. Admission, 1*s.*

CATLIN'S NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN GALLERY, EGYPTIAN HALL, PICCADILLY.—Containing 500 paintings, made by his own hand, during seven years' travel and residence amongst the Wildest Tribes of Indians in North America. And also an immense Collection of Indian Curiosities, Dresses, Weapons, &c.; and a Cross Wigan, twenty-five feet high—a magnificent specimen.—Open daily from 10 to 6. Admission, 1*s.* MR. CATLIN'S SECOND COURSE OF THREE LECTURES on the MANNERS and CUSTOMS of these People, will be delivered NEXT WEEK, on TUESDAY, THURSDAY, and SATURDAY EVENINGS, commencing at 8 o'clock. Tickets for the Course, 6*s.*; Single Tickets, 2*s.* 6*d.*

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

Jan. 20.—Edward Blore, V.P., in the chair.

A paper by Herr Hallmann, architect, from Hanover, was read 'On the History of Græco-Russian Ecclesiastical Architecture.' Before examining the existing Russian churches, the author thought it necessary to take a hasty glance at the origin and history of Christianity in Russia, or, what amounts to the same thing, at the history of those churches. One of the first Christians in Russia was the Princess Olga, who caused herself to be baptized at Constantinople in the year 964; but the era of Christianity in Russia did not commence before the reign of Vladimir the Great. The first church that he caused to be built was that of Cherson, and, a year afterwards, he ordered the construction of the Church of St. Basil, which was, as well as the other, of wood. He sent an embassy into Italy, Arabia, and to Constantinople, to examine the various religions, for the Western and Eastern churches were already separated from each other; and Prince Vladimir, embracing the Greek religion, ordered the baptism of the whole of his people, and was the first to commence destroying the ancient idols. Vladimir built the church of the title at Kiev; and it is said that, at the time of his death, there were already 600 churches at Kiev. Prince Yaroslaf turned his attention still more than Vladimir to the construction of religious edifices: he founded the churches of St. Sophia, at Kiev, and another, of the same name, at Novogorod;—they exist, in part, to this day. He also erected the convents of St. George and St. Irene. In 1075 was built the celebrated convent of Petchersky, at Kiev, since which time the Russian metropolitans remained subordinate to the metropolitans of Constantinople. Christianity made rapid progress; there remained an uninterrupted communication between Constantinople and Kiev, and various marriages between the two reigning houses of the two countries were celebrated. About the year 1124, a great fire destroyed 600 churches and monasteries. In the civil war under Yisaslaf, Kiev was taken; it was set on fire; and finally, nearly at the same time that Constantinople was taken by the Venetians, the city of Kiev was ravaged and destroyed a second time, never again to realize its former splendour. Moscow is first mentioned in the year 1154, and at that time it was but a miserable village. Daniel of Moscow added to it greatly; and, in the year 1304, under John Danielowitch, the city was chosen capital of the empire, where, on the 4th of August, 1326, was laid the first stone of the church of the Assumption of the Virgin, in the Kremlin. Under Dimitri Donskoi, the palace of the Kremlin, until then of wood, was erected in stone; and under the reign of Basil the Blind (1425-1462), the church of Russia ceased to be dependent on that of Constantinople, after the taking of that city by Mahomet II. In the year 1487, a palace, known by the name of the Granite Palace in the Kremlin, was built, and in 1499 the Belvedere Palace. Ivan IV. did much for the arts (1534-1584). He likewise re-

nnewed the laws for exactly imitating the ancient painting in new churches, whence the reason why all the paintings are so much alike that it is impossible to judge of the epoch, but they may be regarded as a sure type of the earliest Christianity. About the year 1600 the Tzar Boris caused the erection of the magnificent clock-tower, Ivan Valiki, at the Kremlin; and at this period Moscow reckoned 400 churches, of which 35 were at the Kremlin alone. From the time of Peter the Great, and particularly at Petersburg, a change of style took place, and the type of the ancient church was replaced by the absurdities of the *rococo*.

After this general view of the progress of Christian art in Russia, the author turned to the consideration of the Russian Church itself, and for this purpose he chose for his examination the cathedral church of the Assumption of the Virgin, at Moscow, as holding the middle rank amongst the existing churches, both as to form and time of construction. (1326.) The plan of the church forms an oblong square divided, and the vaults of which are supported by six equal columns in the interior. Upon a first glance, the form of the Greek cross is not noticed, but it is indicated by the arrangement of the cupolas. The more ancient churches often form an exact square preceded by a porch, but here the porch is united with the interior of the church, and the arches of the cupolas are placed as if the church still retained the primitive form. The six columns divide the church into four parts from east to west, and three from north to south. On the eastern side are seen three apses, only divided by the width of a pillar. The middle apsis is bigger than the side ones; this arrangement is found in nearly all the Greek churches, and these apses indicate the situation of three altars, which are met with everywhere except in small chapels. The altars are not visible to the public; they are covered or concealed by the iconostasis, an arrangement peculiar to the Greek Church. This iconostasis (or image-bearer) is merely a kind of colossal screen, occupying the whole width of the church, thus dividing it into two different parts. The iconostasis has three doors, a principal one in the middle, and two smaller ones on each side. Behind the lateral doors there is a more particular distribution, which is, that on each side stands a second little iconostasis, occupying only the width of the little apsis, but the arrangement of which, with three doors and an altar behind, is analogous to the great one. This is what is met with in the ancient churches; in the more modern, an alteration has been made, so that at the farther end of the edifice are seen, upon the same line, three different distinct iconostases. Between the principal door and the lateral ones, there is, in front of the iconostasis, on each side, a place for the choristers. Above and before the iconostasis always rises the principal cupola, and in the cathedral churches, at the foot of the apsis, opposite the iconostasis which support the cupola, are seen on the left a baldachin for the emperor, and, on the right, another for the metropolitan. As to the situation of the cupolas, there is generally one principal cupola in the midst of four smaller ones which surround it, and the small ones are nearly always at the four angles of the Greek cross. In every church the iconostasis is the principal part, which ought to be a representation of the celestial empire: it is composed of four or five different tiers, four of which are indispensable. Each tier is composed of an unequal number of pictures of saints, painted on tablets or long square surfaces, the place of which is rigorously fixed. On the first tier are the three doors; the middle door (in two foldings) ought to be ornamented with the Annunciation of the Virgin—the Virgin on one of the foldings, and the Angel on the other—accompanied with the heads or emblems of the four evangelists: on the right of the door is the effigy of Christ, on the left that of the Madonna; on the right, after that of Christ, is placed the picture of the saint or of the festival of the church: then come the little doors already mentioned, but they ought only to be single doors; above the little doors is placed, on the left, the Greek cross, on the right the cross of Moses, symbols of the New and the Old Testament. Such are the indispensable arrangements of the first tier. The ground of the whole iconostasis is gilt. On the second tier, in the middle, is Christ on a throne; and on the right is St. John the Baptist; on the left the Madonna (without the child): after that appear, on

each side, two archangels and six apostles. On the third tier, in the middle, is seated the Madonna, holding the infant Jesus on her knees; on each side of her are seen the effigies of the prophets. On the fourth tier is placed God the Father, on a throne, with the infant Jesus; on each side the pictures of the patriarchs of the Church. Sometimes there is a fifth tier, upon which are seen representations of the history or of the passion of the Saviour. The other parts of the church are ornamented with paintings on a gold ground. The forms of the exterior are very simple; with respect to the upper part of the edifice, the adoption is nearly general of the oriental manner of the eleventh and twelfth centuries,—namely, the entire rejection of the horizontal line of a cornice, as the crowning of the building for the substitution of arched, or pointedly arched forms,—determining the extrados of the vaults. This cylindrical covering is well known in the east, and is even to be seen in Italy at the present day, in the environs of Naples. These extrados are painted in all colours. The Russian churches derive a peculiar aspect from the cupolas which rise above the roof. On beginning to build churches in the eleventh century, the prevalent manner in the east was naturally imitated—that is to say, such cupolas were not employed as are seen, for example, at St. Sophia at Constantinople, or at Venice, but such as are to be met with in the churches of those times in Greece. The form of the cupolas themselves, which are generally placed on an octagonal drum, are extremely various, some having the form of a half globe, others of a flat onion, a bud, or a long pear, &c.

Mr. Hallmann next drew a parallel between the Russian, the original Greek, and the western churches which bear traces of Greek influence. The first Christian temples under Constantine in the east, and even at Rome, were circular or octagonal, and were surmounted by a single dome: afterwards the same disposition we find in the interior of the churches, with few variations, but the exterior assumes the square form, as in the church of Sergius and Bacchus, and St. Sophia at Constantinople. This latter church already evinces in the interior the form of a Greek cross, and may be regarded as the basis of the Russian churches. At the end of the seventh century began the difference of dogmas between the iconoclasts and iconolaters, which ended in the rupture between the churches of the east and the west. From this time, probably, may be dated the custom of not allowing carved images or statues in Greek churches, except statues of angels; wherefore we see *niellos* upon bronze doors of Greek origin, even in Italy, as at Monte St. Angelo, at Canopa in Apulia, and at Amalfi, &c. Another difference, probably one of the consequences of the schism, was the establishing, at each side of the grand altar, a secondary one; not, as in Roman Catholic churches, at the ends of the transept, or in side chapels, but at the extremity of the church, in the same direction as the grand altar. Their place is always indicated by a niche or apsis. In the Russian churches which commenced in the same century, it has been shown that this disposition became typical, and that it is quite conformable to the division and subdivision of the iconostasis. This disposition is to be met with in nearly all the churches of the eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth centuries, at Bari, Trani, Malfetta, Otranto, &c., where the Greek worship then prevailed. This situation of the altars is seen even where the churches are Roman Catholic, as at Palermo, in the chapel at Martorana and Monreal, and even at Amalfi and Ravello. Considering that this disposition is found in churches of an earlier date, as St. Parenze in Istria, at St. Fosca, &c., and that perhaps even the form of the ancient basilicas might have given rise to this disposition; it may be very possible that the Greeks preserved this form as an ancient custom of the Church, and that it was the Roman Catholics rather who departed from it. This observation is corroborated, if we observe that the ancient writers tell us that there was, on the left of the altar, a place for the deacons of the church, afterwards called the sacristy, and, on the right, an altar for the consecration of the bread and wine for the communion. In Roman Catholic churches, we always see a sacristy at the side of the church, but, in the Greek Church, the priests always robed themselves behind the iconostasis; and, up to the present day, there is an altar at the side of the

present one for the preparation of wine and bread. Another very remarkable difference in the Russian churches is the not having separate places for the women, and there is not a single remnant of a tribune or gynæceum—a circumstance the more astonishing as this disposition is met with not only in the East, but also in nearly all the churches on the coasts of the Adriatic Sea, at Bari, &c. The author concluding by passing in review the modern churches erected after Peter the Great, especially at Petersburg, and by exhibiting and explaining an original design for a Greco-Russian church, exquisitely drawn, and embellished with all the attractions of that gorgeous colouring, which is so peculiar a feature in those edifices.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Feb. 5.—The Rev. Dr. Buckland, President, in the chair.—The following communications were read:

1. 'An extract of a Dispatch from Mr. Chatfield, Her Majesty's Consul at San Salvador,' dated Oct. 10th, 1839.—San Salvador is very subject to earthquakes, and from March to September last, they were often felt, but not being unusually strong they attracted no particular attention. On the 1st of October, at 2 a.m., a powerful shock was experienced, and at 3 o'clock a second, which nearly demolished the town. Between the 1st and the 10th of October, the shocks were repeated with alarming violence; and at the date of the dispatch not a house remained standing secure. The earthquake is supposed to have originated in causes immediately beneath the town: and the motion is considered to have been decidedly vertical, because places five or six miles from San Salvador had not been injured.

2. A paper by Mr. Austen, 'On Orthocera, Ammonites, and other cognate genera; and on the position they occupy in the animal kingdom.'—The object of this memoir was to show, that orthocera, ammonites, and other genera of chambered shells, are not external appendages of the animals by which they were formed, but internal; and, therefore, that they ought not to be placed with the Nautilus in the tetrabranchiate order, but in the dibranchiate. Mr. Austen's reasons for considering that the shell was internal, are founded on its extreme thinness in some cases; on the contracted form of the mouth in several genera; in the last chamber being, in certain species, (*Orthoceras pyriformis*) closed, with the exception of a passage for the siphuncle; on the impediments which the shape of the shell in the genera Hamites and Scaphites, would present to the animal's progressive motion; on the liability of the shell in all genera, if external, to be injured, and its properties, as a float, destroyed; and on the difficulty which the animal, especially of the Bæulite, and other straight elongated shells, would have in repairing an injury. In conclusion, Mr. Austen observed, that the great abundance of orthocera, and other chambered shells in the older strata, proves that animals of a high organization thronged the seas at early periods of the earth's history.

3. 'The Introductory Memoir to the new edition of the Geological Map of England and Wales,' by G. B. Greenough, Esq., explaining the principles upon which the map has been constructed. Having always felt the close and necessary connexion which exists between the outward forms of a country and its geological structure, Mr. Greenough, in preparing his new edition, has introduced, as far as the surveys of the kingdom have permitted, every requisite alteration. In the two southern, the eastern, and the two northern sheets, no material changes have been made in the topography, in consequence, either of the original drawings having been, in part, reduced from the Ordnance surveys, or the want of more detailed documents than those used in preparing the first edition, or the geological structure of the country not requiring any alterations. To do justice, however, to the great mass of information recently obtained in Wales and the border counties, Mr. Greenough has conceived it necessary to have a new map of the whole of Wales and the adjacent districts constructed, with scrupulous accuracy, from the admirable maps issued from the Ordnance press; and he trusts that the result will be approved, not merely by professed geologists, but by all who feel an interest in the progress of art, more especially when exerted in furtherance of science. Great attention has also been paid to the hydrography of the new sheets. With respect

to sub-divisions of formations which the progress of observation has rendered necessary, the principal are those connected with the green sand series, the Wealden, the lias, and the new red sandstone; but the chief changes are the divisions in Siluria and South Wales, first established by Mr. Murchison; and the adopting the classification recently proposed by Prof. Sedgwick and Mr. Murchison, for Devonshire and Cornwall. In the second part of the memoir, Mr. Greenough dwells upon the difficulties attending the colouring of a geological map. In the preparation of the new edition, he has endeavoured to accommodate the colour of the pigment to that of the substance represented; to apply to substances mineralogically similar, similar tints, to substances mineralogically dissimilar, dissimilar tints; to place in juxtaposition those colours only which would either harmonize or contrast, as the occasion might require; to confine opaque colours to those parts of the map which are least charged with engraving; to reserve the most formidable colours for the smaller spaces; to denote marked differences in adjoining rocks by strong opposition of hue; to avoid spotiness; and, lastly, to apply the brightest colours to the centre, carrying them off by gradation towards the extremities. All these objects, Mr. Greenough adds, can rarely be attained, but all were taken into consideration before the colouring of any portion was finally determined. The difficulty of obtaining uniform tints by hand, as well as accuracy of extent, is much insisted upon in the memoir, and the necessity of employing artists of acknowledged skill and established character. Mr. Greenough likewise dwells upon the assistance which may be derived from employing shaded grounds, produced by lines or dots; and he is convinced, that a combination of colours with linear shadows will afford a range of expression far greater than is likely to be required for any geological purposes; and that it will not be difficult, by the judicious application of this simple contrivance, to give to the geological map-maker the blessing, not only of an easy, copious, elegant and precise, but also of an universal language.

4. 'On the Detrital Deposits between Lynn and Wells, in Norfolk,' by Mr. J. Trimmer.—The detrital, or superficial, deposits of this district are divisible into two beds, and were accumulated, in Mr. Trimmer's opinion, not by ordinary and long-continued marine action over a district permanently submerged, but by sudden rushes of water over previously dry land. The upper deposit consists of ferruginous sand, or loam, containing numerous chalk flints, fragments of red chalk, and many other rocks. The lower deposit is composed of chalk rubble, mixed in variable proportions with argillaceous and sandy matter; but, in its pure state it is constituted of finely comminuted particles, resembling, at a short distance, chalk *in situ*. Near Lynn it is formed of blue clay inclosing fragments of chalk. It contains unabrased tabular flints, and organic remains, derived from the chalk and oolitic series, but none assignable to the period when the detritus was accumulated. The depth of both deposits varies from a few inches to many feet, and often at short distances. The chalk rubble is much furrowed on the surface, and vertical sand galls penetrate its mass occasionally to within a few inches of the solid chalk. The furrows, Mr. Trimmer ascribes to the action of currents of water; and the sand galls to the whirling round of pebbles by eddies. His reasons for believing that the two deposits were not produced by long-continued marine action, but by sudden rushes of water, are derived from the slightly abraded condition of the materials composing them. In conclusion, the author suggests the importance of determining, whether the superficial deposits of the north-west of Norfolk are the equivalents of those near Cromer, described by Mr. Lyell, in his memoir read on the 22nd January.

Errata.—In last Geological Report, p. 80, col. 2, l. 32, for "crag," read chalk; l. 63, dele "at"; col. 3, l. 33, for "in these cases," read in those cases.

ASIATIC SOCIETY.

Feb. 1.—Professor Wilson in the chair.

A paper on the site and ruins of the ancient town of Tammana Nuwera, in Ceylon, by Simon Casie Chitty, Esq., Corr. Mem. R.A.S., was read. Two circumstances concur to render the discovery

of this ancient town interesting to us: the first, is its name, from which the Greek and Roman writers undoubtedly derived the appellation they gave to the island of Ceylon; and the second, is the remarkable resemblance displayed in its ruins to the Druidical remains, of times perhaps equally ancient, in our own island. The word *Tammana* is but a corruption of the Pali appellation *Tambapanni*, or Sanskrit *Tāmra-varṇi*, "copper-coloured," from the colour of the soil on which it was built; and meaning, as appears from a passage in the Mahawanso, an ancient Pali book recently translated and published by the Hon. G. Turnour, that the whole island was then so called: "from the same cause this renowned land became celebrated under that name." Vol. I. p. 50. From either of these two names the *Taprobane* of the Greeks and Romans is easily derived. The word *Nuwera* appears to be merely a corruption of the word *Nagara*, a city. The town was founded in the middle of the 6th century before the Christian era, by Wijaya, ("conqueror," Sans), the first in the list of the kings of Ceylon, whose history is given in the 7th chapter of the Mahawanso. The site of the landing of Wijaya has been disputed by European writers; but a constant tradition has placed it near Putlam, on the western coast of the island; and this is now rendered certain by the discovery of the ruins about 10 miles N.E. of that place, in a deep forest called Kandu Kuli Maley. The country around the ruins, for many miles, presents an unvaried scene of jungle; and is the resort of elephants and other wild beasts. The ruins were not wholly unknown to the natives, who frequent the forest for the purpose of cutting timber, or gathering honey; but they took no trouble about them, except, occasionally, to dig for hidden treasure on their site. Last year, however, they were seen by James Caulfield, Esq., who was making an excursion to the forest with a party of friends. The ruins consist of thirteen groups of granite pillars; the remains of a *dagope*; a well; some tanks; two headless Buddhas; and several fragments of pedestals, bricks, potsheds, &c. &c. The ruins are scattered over a space of less than half a mile in extent, at a small distance from the river Meooya, which runs through the forest. All the groups of pillars are similar in form and arrangement, though varying in size: drawings of two of them were sent by the writer, and exhibited to the meeting. The largest pillar is stated to be from 9 to 10 feet in height, and in bulk, 14 inches by 10. They are supposed, by the writer to be the remains of buildings appropriated either to religious worship, or to the residence of the king and his court; but he remarks, they are so low that it is impossible to imagine they ever supported a roof; but he thinks it likely they may have supported upper stories of timber. He also observes, that in nearly all the ruins found in different parts of Ceylon, pillars have been met with of similar character. No remains of private buildings are to be seen; and this the writer, with great probability, ascribes to the prohibition, by Cingalese sovereigns, of building houses of stone, except by persons of the royal blood; all other parties being compelled to live in thatched houses built of mud; and this prohibition was kept up until a recent period. The *dagope* is built of layers of brick and mud; but having been frequently explored in the hopes of finding treasure, it is much dilapidated. The well, which was lined with hard stone, is almost filled up with the accumulated rubbish. The tanks are in tolerably good condition: they are small; and were, consequently, in all probability, not employed for the purpose of irrigation, but only for the domestic uses of the inhabitants of the city. A stone slab was found among the pillars, 8 feet long, and 3 feet and a half wide. It is not left rough, as the pillars are, but is polished; and one edge has a carved moulding. This might have been the step of a temple, or a table to set idols upon; or, possibly, it might have been similar to the slabs placed as rude altars near Buddhist temples, and which are usually covered with flowers. Two figures of Buddha, formed of granite, were found in a sitting posture. The heads of both had been broken off, evidently by violence. One of these images still remains where it was found: the other has been removed to the town of Putlam.

At the conclusion of this paper, the Director remarked upon the Druidical character of these ruins, which, though not upon so large a scale as those

found in England, would suggest the idea of a similar origin. Such remains have been found in other parts of Ceylon; but it is remarkable that they have not been seen in any other Buddhist country.

The Secretary then commenced the reading of a paper, by Sir John Macdonald, containing remarks upon Lieut.-Col. Evans's work 'On the practicability of an invasion of India by Russia;' which will be concluded at another meeting.

Professor Duncan Forbes was elected a Resident Member, and Professor Flügel, of Saxony, a Corresponding Member.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 10.—Sir John F. W. Herschel, Bart, President, in the Chair.

The Rev. G. Wright, B.A. of Trinity Terrace, Southwark; T. J. Main, Esq. Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge; J. Caldecott, Esq. Astronomer to the Rajah of Travancore; and Capt. J. T. Boileau, of the Bengal Engineers, were elected Fellows.

The following communications were read:—

1. Ephemeris of the Comet now visible. By Mr. C. Runkler, of Hamburg. This ephemeris gives the daily right ascension and declination of the comet from the 4th to the 24th of the present month, at 4 p.m. mean equinoctial time: the author stating that he was desirous of establishing the fact of its visibility after sunset.

2. A Letter from Mr. H. Lawson, describing the appearance of the Comet, as seen at Hereford. The comet was observed by Mr. Lawson on the mornings of the 23rd and 29th of last month, and of the 8th instant. It had a tolerably well-defined nucleus, with a bushy tail on the side opposite to the sun. The nucleus subtended an angle nearly equal to half the visual angle subtended by *Jupiter*; and the tail filled the whole field of view, the diameter of which was three minutes of time.

3. Apparent Positions of the Comet observed at Edinburgh. By Professor Henderson.

4. Observations of the Comet made at Ashurst and Dulwich. By R. Snow, Esq. Mr. Snow found the comet on the 28th of December. The observed diameter of the head was then 58", and the tail extended beyond the field of view. It was again observed on the 29th, and also on the 5th and 6th of the present month, when it was very bright and easily found. The nucleus was large, but not stellar.

5. Occultations of Stars by the Moon to the end of 1839. By R. Snow, Esq.

6. Catalogue of the *Pleiades*. By R. Snow, Esq. The author states that this catalogue does not lay claim to strict accuracy, but was constructed in order to form a chart, which might be consulted with advantage when occultations of stars in the *Pleiades* by the moon take place. Piazzi's stars falling within the limits of the chart were taken as standards, and the differences between them and the other stars determined by a wire micrometer.

7. On the Variability of a *Cassiopeia*. By R. Snow, Esq. At the meeting of May 10, 1839, (*Athen.* No. 608,) the attention of the Society was directed to the supposed variability of this star; and it has, accordingly, been watched with the naked eye, since June 9 1839, up to the present time, January 8.

8. Observations of a *Cassiopeia* in 1831 and 1832. By Mr. Birt. The author states, that since 1832 his attention had not been directed to this star until May last, when it immediately occurred to him that his observations might probably assist in determining the period in which the brightness of the star completes the circle of its gradations. When Mr. Birt commenced observing the star in April 1831, the lustre appeared to be at its minimum. In December, of the same year, he again observed it to be less than β . His observations were then discontinued until June 1832, when it again appeared less than β . Taking the extreme observations, we have thus two periods completed in about fifteen months, or one period in about 225 days.

9. On the Variability and Periodic Nature of the Star *a Orionis*. By Sir J. F. W. Herschel. "In a communication which was read to this Society on the 10th of May last, I pointed out the star *a Cassiopeia* as variable and periodical. That the fluctuations in splendour of this star should have escaped general notice is not extraordinary, since the difference between its greatest and least brightness can

hardly be estimated at more than half a magnitude. But that a periodical variation to a very much greater extent, in so important and remarkable star as *a Orionis*, should, up to this time, have been completely unnoticed by astronomers, does appear to me, I confess, not a little extraordinary, and might be taken as an argument to show, more than anything, the comparatively neglected state of this highly interesting branch of Physical Astronomy. Perhaps, however, in this, as in many other cases, the very prominence of the object has been the cause of its being neglected; as it might easily be supposed by any one entering on this research, that had a star so familiar to every practical astronomer presented any striking peculiarity of this kind, it could not but have been observed. Hence, while the attention of observers has been directed, and with success, to much inferior stars, it seems to have been taken for granted, that among stars of the first magnitude nothing, in fact, remained to be discovered. Having bestowed much attention, during my residence at the Cape, on the estimation of the magnitudes of the southern stars, both by direct photometrical measurements, assigning numerical values to about sixty or seventy of them, selected as offering convenient gradations of brightness, and also by very assiduous and often-repeated comparisons by the naked eye, with the view to completing a graduated scale down to the fifth magnitude, at least, it became important to connect these magnitudes by similar comparisons with those of the northern hemisphere, by means of stars in the vicinity of the equator admitting of observation at both stations. My method in these observations has been invariably on each night to establish, in the first instance, a sort of skeleton-scale, beginning with the stars of the first magnitude actually visible, and extending as far as was judged convenient for the occasion, then filling in this scale by the insertion of fresh stars between the members. The stars of the first magnitude actually above the horizon at the time of commencing observation were first arranged, and others of that magnitude inserted among them as they rose and gained altitude." The author states that he was led to the suspicion of the variability of *a Orionis*, from some comparisons of that star with *Aldebaran* in November last; when he found it considerably brighter than *Aldebaran*; and he says "now as I distinctly recollected having, on a great many occasions, placed *a Orionis* nearly on a par with *Aldebaran*, there could be no doubt of a change. Referring next morning to my father's Catalogues of Comparative Brightness, I find that he makes the star in question slightly inferior, or at most equal, to *Procyon*, and much greater than *Aldebaran*. In consequence of this observation, I proceeded forthwith to draw out in order all the comparisons of *a Orionis* with other stars made at the Cape, on the voyage homewards, and since my return. In so doing, I must confess I was hardly less surprised than at the sight of the star itself to find in my star-lists, containing the results of a partial reduction and arrangement of my Cape observations, *a Orionis* not merely marked as *variable*, but distinct entries made of it in that list at its maximum and minimum,—the maximum being stated as above *Rigel*, the minimum below *Aldebaran*. This however, had entirely escaped my memory, but being thus recalled, and so forcibly corroborated, I resolved to watch the star more narrowly in future; the more especially as it seemed to follow, from the tenour of the observations, that its diminution of brightness was likely to be rapid: and so, in fact, it has proved to be." The author then proceeds to give the observations on which the evidence of the former changes of the star is grounded: which extend over the years 1836, 1837, 1838, and 1839. The observations subsequent to Nov. 26, 1839, confirmed the expected decrease of the star in a very decided manner. "Upon the whole (he says) I think it may be stated, that in the interval from November 26 to the present date (January 8.) *Orion* has sustained a loss of nearly half its light. It may easily be supposed that a diminution, thus evidently still in rapid progress, will, in no long time, carry down the rank of this star below that of *Aldebaran*, and that the confirmation or disappointment of this expectation is awaited with no small interest." The author concludes with the following remarks:—"The subject of variable and periodical stars has been of late rather unac-

countably suffered to lie dormant; a state of neglect in which, as I have already observed, it ought not to be suffered to remain, and from which I have endeavoured to rescue it on two former recent occasions, by pointing out the stars *a Hydra* and *a Cassiopeie*, both large and conspicuous stars, as belonging to the latter class. A periodical change, however, existing to so great an extent in so large and brilliant a star as *a Orionis*, cannot fail to awaken attention to the subject, and to revive the consideration of those speculations respecting the possibility of a change in the lustre of our sun itself which were put forth by my father. If there really be a community of nature between the sun and fixed stars, every proof that we obtain of the extensive prevalence of such periodical changes in those remote bodies, adds to the probability of finding something of the kind nearer home. It is only in comparatively very recent meteorological observations that we can expect to find that precision in the determination of temperatures which is necessary to establish the absence or presence of periodical change in the intensity of solar radiation; and if the period be not annual (as there is no reason why it should be,) the usual mode of combining observations of temperature followed by meteorologists is altogether inappropriate to the research, which can only be carried on either analytically, by the introduction of a periodical term with unknown coefficient, epoch, and period, or graphically, by projecting in a continuous curve the mean daily temperatures during a long series of years. For the detection of a period of great length, extending over more than a year, the continued observation of the temperature of the water a few feet below the surface in open sea, under the equator, on the principles pointed out by M. Arago in his instructions for the voyage of the *Bonite*, would suffice. But we are far from possessing as yet sufficient records of such observations to be worth discussion in this point of view. Such observations must of their nature be casual. Even granting that in every ship which traversed the equator the requisite observations were made, the identity of their thermometric standards would be still open to question. The assiduous observation in fixed physical observatories of the temperature of the earth, at several depths below the surface, extending from three to thirty feet—an element which we know to be (in its mean amount) solely dependent on solar radiation—would be in every respect more immediately and practically applicable to the inquiry, and we may expect to see it carried out into effect. The direct measure of the solar radiation too, by the actinometer, ought by no means to be neglected in this inquiry. M. Poisson, in a late *Memoir*, has considered the possible consequences in a geological point of view of the sun and solar system having, in long by-gone ages, passed through a region in which the actual temperature of space should be much greater than its present locality. The great authority justly attributed to every idea thrown out by this philosopher must render it a matter of diffidence and difficulty to maintain a contrary view. Without, however, as a matter of abstract speculation, denying this possibility, I would observe that the temperature at any given point of space can arise only from two sources: 1st, That of the ether, as a fluid susceptible of increase and diminution of temperature; and, 2dly, The radiation of the stars. Of the temperature of the ether as a fluid, I confess I have no conception. Of the existence of such a fluid as the efficient cause of light, we have demonstrable evidence. But the properties of heat are so linked and interwoven with those of light, that it is asking more than can be granted to demand our admission that the ether is a fluid capable of being heated and cooled, while it is yet undecided (with a leaning to the affirmative side) whether it be not the efficient cause of heat itself. As regards the radiation of the stars: There is a region in the heavens where starlight is decidedly more dense than elsewhere—the milky way. And we have, I may almost say, ocular evidence that our system is eccentrically situated within that zone, and nearer to its southern than to its northern portion. Granting a perfect transparency of the celestial spaces, the brightness of any given region of the sky must be alike at all distances, whether we conceive that brightness to be uniformly diffused over its surface or to

emanate from a finite number of undistinguishably small points. Now, although the brightness of the southern regions of the milky way may, for argument's sake, be admitted to be three or four times that of the northern, yet, as that light is almost completely obliterated by the presence of a full moon in any part of the sky above the horizon, it follows that the brightness of the general firmament to a spectator placed within the brightest part of the milky way (supposing him not within the range of an individual sun), must be less than that of (not the full moon itself, but) that general illumination which the moon communicates to the whole sky by atmospheric reflection; i. e. an almost infinitesimal quantity compared to the direct light of the lunar disk; the intensity of which can hardly be to that of the sun in a higher ratio than one to half a million. The brightest regions in the sky—i. e. the brightest spaces having a visible area—are those occupied by the planetary nebulae. Of these, there is none which can be compared to *Uranus* in intrinsic brightness, to say nothing of the moon. Supposing, then, our system to be suddenly plunged into the bosom of one of these nebulae, an increase of temperature would take place less than that which would arise from superadding to our own that which the surface of *Uranus* receives from the sun, or less than the 400th part of that which we actually receive from it; and this supposes *Uranus* to reflect all the light incident on it. Leaving to others to judge, however, how far these arguments are to be considered as militating against the view of climatological changes in remote antiquity above alluded to, I may remark that it is a matter of observed fact, that many stars have undergone in past ages, within the records of astronomical history, very extensive changes in apparent lustre, without a change of distance adequate to producing such an effect. If our sun were ever intrinsically much brighter than at present, the mean temperature of the surface of our globe would, of course, be proportionally greater. I speak now not of periodical, but of secular changes. But the argument is complicated with the consideration of the possibly imperfect transparency of the celestial spaces, and with the cause of that imperfect transparency, which may be due to material non-luminous particles diffused irregularly in patches analogous to nebulae, but of greater extent—to *cosmical clouds*, in short—of whose existence we have, I think, some indication in the singular and apparently capricious phenomena of temporary stars, and perhaps in the recent extraordinary sudden increase and hardly less sudden diminution of *η Argus*."

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

Annual Report, 1840.

THE Report of the Council on the proceedings, and on the state and prospects of the Institution, at the close of the twenty-first year of its existence, contains much that will be interesting, not only to the members of the profession, but to all in any way connected with practical science. Our own Reports, however, of the proceedings of the Institution, and of the communications from time to time read at the meetings, have, we are happy to find, been so complete, that we are enabled, by mere reference to former publications, greatly to abridge this important paper.

The Council (it was observed) have endeavoured from time to time to direct attention to subjects on which it was conceived communications were needed or desirable, by proposing such subjects as objects for the Premiums placed at the disposal of the Council by the munificence of the late President. The communications sent in compliance with this invitation have not been numerous. Two, however, —one by Mr. Jones, on the Westminster Sewage, and the other by Mr. Hood, on Warming and Ventilating, —seemed to call for some special mark of distinction.

The communication by Mr. Jones is of the most elaborate and costly description. [See *Athen.* No. 610.] The Council conceived that, in awarding to Mr. Jones a Telford Medal in Silver and Twenty Guineas for this laborious communication, they were bestowing a suitable mark of approbation on the Author of a record which is nearly unparalleled, and must be of great value as a source of information in all future works of this nature, when other, and particularly foreign, cities carry into effect a system of drainage, in which they are at present so deficient. The Council

cannot pass from this subject without expressing the obligations which the Institution is under to the Chairman and the Commissioners of the Sewers of the Westminster District. On its being intimated to them that the Council wished some account and record of the work over which they preside, permission was immediately given for any person desirous of preparing such account to have free access to all the documents in their possession relating to this subject, and to make such extracts therefrom as could in any way contribute towards this object.

The communication by Mr. Hood contains a detailed account of the principles on which the salubrity of the atmosphere in crowded rooms depends, and the various methods which have been adopted for warming and ventilation. [See *Athen.* No. 611.] This subject is of the highest importance to the manufacturing poor, who are compelled to work in crowded rooms at high temperatures. The Council are aware that much has been done towards this object in some of the large cotton works of Great Britain; and they hope ere long to obtain some detailed account of the means by which this has been accomplished, and the results which have ensued.

The Council have also awarded a Telford Medal in Silver to Charles Wye Williams, for his communication on the Properties, Uses, and Manufacture of Turf-Coke and Peat-Resin Fuel; and to Mr. E. Woods, for his communication on Locomotive Engines.

The various applications of Peat as a fuel had been repeatedly the subject of discussion at the Meetings of the Institution; and this communication may be attributed to the discussions then going on. [See *Athen.* No. 593.]

The communication by Mr. Edward Woods, published in the Second Volume of the Transactions, will always bear a prominent place among the records of practical science, as one of the earliest and most accurate details on the actual working of Locomotive Engines. The first communication was received early in the Session of 1838. [See *Athen.* No. 539.] The author was thought capable of adding so much to his already valuable communication, that the Council referred it back to him for this purpose; and it was not received in the form in which it appears in your Transactions till after the premiums for that Session were awarded. But this communication (notwithstanding the interval since it was laid before the Meeting) will probably be fresh in the recollection of most present, from its giving an accurate account of the progress of the Locomotive Engines on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway from the opening of that important work. The experience of Engineers had at that time furnished them with but little knowledge as to what were the most essential requisites in Railway Engines; and the advance of knowledge, as shown by the history of the Locomotive Engine on this railway, is a most interesting and instructive lesson to every one who would study the progress of practical science and improvement. Great alterations were found necessary in the strength of the parts, in the weight of the engines, in the road, and the number of the wheels. The first engines were gradually adapted to the necessities of the case; and the arrangements then resorted to as necessary expedients have now been adopted into the regular and uniform practice. Besides the extreme interest of that which may be termed the history of these improvements, the communication is replete with theoretical principles as to the working of Locomotives, and the advantages and disadvantages incident to peculiar practical adaptations. The Council would point out this paper to the junior members of the profession, as an example of how great a service may be rendered by simply recording what passes under their daily observation and experience.

The Council have also adjudged a Telford Medal in Bronze and Books to the value of three guineas to Mr. R. W. Mylne, for his communication on the Well sunk at the reservoir of the New River Company at the Hampstead Road; to Lieut. Pollock, for his drawings and description of the Coffre Dam at Westminster Bridge; and to Mr. Redman, for his drawings and account of Bow Bridge.

The communication by Mr. Mylne contains an account of the various attempts which have been made in the metropolis and its environs to obtain water from the sand strata, by means of wells and

small bores, in which the water rises naturally to the surface. These attempts, and the raising the water by artificial means from the sand strata, have been for the most part unsuccessful. [See *Athen.* No. 610.] The peculiar difficulties experienced in the progress of this work, and the means by which these and similar difficulties are to be overcome, as set forth in the report of Mr. Simpson, appended to the communication, furnish a valuable compendium of information on this subject; and, being replete with practical details of an executed work of no ordinary difficulty, is one of those communications to which the Council are most anxious to give every encouragement.

The communication by Lieutenant Pollock on the Coffre Dam, now fixed round the 13 and 14 feet piers of Westminster Bridge, [see *Athen.* No. 610,] and by Mr. Redman on the new stone bridge over the river Lea, at Stratford le Bow, [see *Athen.* No. 611,] are of a similar character to the preceding; they are both accurate accounts, accompanied by valuable drawings, of important works actually executed. The collection of such records ought to be a primary object with the Institution, and their authors are most justly deserving of such marks of distinction as it is in the power of the Institution to bestow. The Council would point out the above as instances of the facility with which individuals may contribute to their own advancement and reputation, no less than to the objects which the Institution has in view; and would more particularly advert to Lieut. Pollock, who, while in England, on leave of absence from India, occupied himself in acquiring engineering knowledge, and, with most praiseworthy diligence, availed himself of the opportunities afforded him, of observing and recording the progress of the works at Westminster Bridge. Works of this nature are accessible to most of those who are studying for the profession, and by making use of the opportunities which are afforded them, they will be able to prepare communications most deserving of such distinctions as those which have just been conferred.

Among the other communications of the Session, the Council cannot, on the present occasion, omit to notice those of Mr. Parkes. His communications on the Evaporation of Water from Steam Boilers, [see *Athen.* No. 547,] for which a Telford medal in silver was awarded during the preceding session, and the interesting discussions to which it gave rise, are too well known to require further comment. But, great as were the benefits conferred on practical science by the facts there recorded, they have been much surpassed by the subsequent labours of this author [see *Athen.* No. 601]. Before Mr. Parkes was induced to turn his attention to the preparation of these communications, no attempt had been made to bring together, in one connected view, the various facts which had been ascertained. The economy of the Cornish system was indisputable; but to what it was to be referred was involved in some obscurity. It was reserved for this communication to call attention to certain quantities and relations which exerted a peculiar influence over the results; and which, being rightly ascertained, were at once indicative or exponential of the character of the boiler. If it be found that, in one class of boiler, the same quantity of coal is burnt eight times as rapidly as in another class—that the quantity consumed on each square foot of one grate is twenty-seven times that on the grate of another—that the quantity of water evaporated bears some definite relation to the quantity of heated surface—and that there is twelve times more evaporated by each foot of heated surface in one class of boiler than in another—and finally, that the quantity of water evaporated by a given weight of fuel is in one class double the quantity evaporated in another,—we have arrived at some definite relations whereby to compare boilers of different kinds with each other. To these definite quantities and relations, the author, with apparent propriety, assigns the term “exponents;” and these being compared together for different boilers, their respective merits as evaporative vessels are readily perceived. Mr. Parkes has also called the attention of engineers to the effect of the element time, that is, the period of the detention of the heat about the boiler. The importance of attending to this cannot be too strongly insisted on; as it would appear from these statements, that boilers being compared with each other, in respect

of their evaporative economy, are nearly inversely as the rate of combustion. Attention is also called to the fact, that there are actions tending to the destruction of the boiler entirely independent of the temperature of the fire, and which may be designated by the term “intensity of calorific action.” Of their nature, we know nothing, but the durability of different boilers, under different systems of practice, affords some means of comparing the intensity of these actions.

Mr. Parkes having, in the first part of the subject, thus pointed out the distinctive features of the different classes of boilers as evaporative vessels, proceeds, in his subsequent and concluding communication, to consider the distribution and practical application of the steam in different classes of steam engines. And for this purpose, he is led to consider the best practical measure of the dynamic efficiency of steam—the methods employed to determine the power of engines—the measures of effect—the expenditure of power—the proportion of boilers to engines—the standard measure of duty—the constituent heat of steam—the locomotive engine—the blast and resistance occasioned by it—the momentum of the engine and train, as exhibiting the whole mechanical effort exerted by the steam—the relative expenditure of power for a given effect by fixed and locomotive non-condensing engines. This bare enumeration of the principal matters in the second communication will give some, though a very inadequate, idea of the magnitude of the task undertaken by Mr. Parkes, for the communication is accompanied by elaborate and extensive tables, exhibiting the results of the facts which he has collected and used in the course of his inquiry; and it may confidently be asserted that a more laborious task has rarely been undertaken or accomplished by any one individual than the series of communications thus brought before the Institution.

It will be one of the earliest duties of the succeeding Council, to consider in what manner the sense of the great benefits conferred on this department of practical science can most appropriately be testified. It would be vain to expect that an Annual Meeting should ever recur without the Council having to lament the removal, by death, of some who, by their acquirements, or by their associations of friendship, were endeared to the Institution. On the present occasion, the Council have to lament the death of your Honorary Member, Mr. Davies Gilbert. Mr. Davies Gilbert was, by his writings and his influence, a great benefactor of practical science; and the Transactions of the Royal Society, over which he presided for three years, contain several papers of great value to the practical engineer. He took great interest in the introduction of Mr. Watt's improvement in the steam-engine into the Cornish mines, and in the controversy betwixt Mr. Watt and Mr. Jonathan Hornblower, respecting working steam expansively, the former employing one cylinder only, the latter two cylinders, in the manner afterwards revived by Woolf; the theoretical efficiency of the two methods being identical, but simplicity and mechanical advantage being greatly in favour of the former, as its present universal adoption testifies. Mr. Davies Gilbert introduced into practical mechanics the term “efficiency” as the product of the applied force and of the space through which it acted in contradistinction to the term “duty,” as indicative of a similar function of the work performed. His attention was also directed to the theory of suspension bridges, when the plan for making such communication across the Menai was submitted to the Commissioners appointed by Parliament. It appeared to him that the proposed depth of curvature of the catenary was not sufficient, and his well-known theoretical investigation of this subject was undertaken with the view of ascertaining this fact; and in consequence of these investigations, the interval between the points of support of the chains and the roadway was increased to the height which appeared to him requisite for works of this nature. The labours of this distinguished individual for the promotion of science were unremitting. He was the founder of several societies; he was the discoverer and early patron of the talents of Davy; and while in parliament he laboured most assiduously in the advancement of all the public works. Regret for such a man, exerting the power of his mind so advantageously and through so many years, must always be strong and sincere; but having

attained the ordinary limit of human life, he sunk into the grave amidst the respect and esteem of all who knew him, and has left behind him a name which will ever bear a prominent place amidst the names of those whose lives and talents have been devoted to great and noble purposes.

ORIENTAL TRANSLATION COMMITTEE.

Jan. 30.—So much anxiety has been felt by the members of this institution lest its very limited resources should prove inadequate to the completion of the valuable works undertaken under the auspices of the Committee, that it was deemed necessary to have a complete examination of the accounts; and though the finances of the fund were not found so flourishing as could be desired, they proved to be in a more satisfactory state than had been anticipated, and there is every prospect of progressive improvement.

Perfect copies of the second volume of M. Quatremère's translation of Macrizi's History of the Mamlûk Sultans of Egypt, and of the second volume of Professor Flügel's translation of Haji Khalfâ's Arabic Bibliographical Dictionary, were laid upon the table, and arrangements made for their immediate publication. The completion of Professor Wilson's translation of the Vishnu Purana was announced, and a proof of the last sheet laid upon the table. It has been beautifully printed at the Oxford University Press, and will form a large quarto volume of more than 800 pages. More than two-thirds of the translation of the Arabic History of the Mohammedan dynasties in Spain, by Señor P. de Gayangoz, has been printed, and the completion of the work will not be long delayed. A portion of Baron de Slane's translation of Ibn Khalkhan's Lives of Illustrious Men was laid upon the table, and met general approbation.

A letter was read from Professor Dorn (translator of the History of the Afghans) offering various suggestions for extending our knowledge of the Pushtoo language and literature, and completing the History of the Afghan tribes. It was stated that several enterprising scholars had accompanied the late expedition to Caubul, and it was deemed expedient to wait for some account of the result of their researches before entering on the extensive and important investigations suggested by Professor Dorn.

Very gratifying proofs of the interest felt in the proceedings of the body by the principal Missionary Societies of Europe and America, were exhibited in a number of letters, dwelling on the importance of a knowledge of the religion from which it was proposed to convert a people, to those who undertake the task of bringing them to Christianity. Much regret was expressed that the state of the fund did not admit of the Committee's making gratuitous grants of their works to missionary seminaries, but some hopes were expressed that the liberality of those who feel an interest in the conversion of the heathen, would enable the Committee to give this very important aid to missionary education; and, in the meantime, it was resolved that any works required should be sold to missionary establishments on the lowest possible terms that the state of the finances would admit.

The following donations, from Mr. Gregory, of Calcutta, were presented to the Committee. A valuable collection of Hindû antiquities, idols, amulets, &c.; a miniature copy of the Koran, beautifully illuminated, written on a roll about two inches wide, and appearing at a distance like a very rich ribbon; it is indeed one of the most extraordinary specimens of oriental calligraphy which we have seen; a brick from Babylon, with a very perfect inscription; and very accurate fac-similes of the arrow-headed inscriptions found at Persepolis.

Mr. Bryan Botfield was admitted a Member of the Committee.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Feb. 4.—The Duke of Devonshire, President, in the chair.

The exhibition, which on account of the badness of the weather, was not very large, comprised the following:—From Mr. Edmonds, gardener to His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, at Chiswick, a fine plant of *Miltonia Russelliana*, introduced by the late Duke of Bedford—from Mr. Paxton, gardener to His Grace at Chatsworth, some very fine fruit of the *Musa Cavendishii*—from Mr. Pratt, gardener to W.

Harrison, Esq., a plant of *Zygopetalon Mackailii*—from Messrs. Rolleston, of Tooting, cut flowers of *Phajus grandifolius*, and *P. Walliehii*—from Miss Cuthill, of Camberwell, a plant of *Camellia Douckeri*—and some specimens of *Chicory* (sweet), such as is used in France for salads instead of endive—from Mr. Baldwin, of Turnham Green, a very fine collection of apples, which were much admired for their size and for their excellent state of preservation,—from the garden of the Society, a collection of plants and cut flowers of *Echeveria gibbiflora*, and eight dishes of apples. Dr. Lindley read a note on the successful cultivation of the *Musa paradisiaca* or *Plantain*, communicated by the Rev. C. Annesley, of Eydon Hall, Oxfordshire, with a drawing of a fine plant growing in his stove-house, with the fruit and florets fully developed; he states the stem of it to be 15 feet 3 inches in height, the circumference of it 1 foot from the ground, being 2 feet 4 inches, and the largest diameter of the space occupied by the foliage 15 feet. It was placed in the stove about 5 years ago, when it was not more than 3 feet high. The silver Knightian medal was awarded to Mr. Edmonds, for his *Miltonia Russelliana*, and the silver Banksian medal to Mr. Baldwin, for his collection of apples. Lord Viscount Beresford, Capt. W. Prowse, R.N., Charles Hambro, J. B. Boothby, and George de Hochfried Larpet, Esqs., were elected Fellows.—The following shows the highest and lowest state of the barometer and thermometer, and the amount of rain, as observed in the garden of the Society, between the 21st of January and the 4th of February.

Jan. 31, Barometer, highest.....	29.953
Feb. 4, " lowest.....	28.770
Jan. 23, Thermometer, highest.....	54° Fah.
Jan. 29, " lowest.....	26° "
Total amount of Rain 1.75 inch.	

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

SAT.	Asiatic Society.....	Two, P.M.
	Westminster Medical Society.....	Eight.
	Statistical Society.....	Eight.
MON.	British Architects.....	Eight.
	Royal Academy (Sculpture).....	Eight.
	Horticultural Society.....	Two.
TUES.	Linnean Society.....	Eight.
	Institute of Civil Engineers.....	Eight.
WED.	Society of Arts.....	7 P. Seven.
	Royal Society.....	8 P. Eight.
THUR.	Society of Antiquaries.....	Eight.
	Royal Academy (Painting).....	Eight.
	Geological Society (Anniversary).....	One.
FRI.	Botanical Society.....	Eight.
	Royal Institution.....	8 P. Eight.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

CONCERTS OF THE WEEK.—Our musical season fairly commenced with the very good and plentiful entertainment offered by M. Benedict, yesterday week. We had, on this occasion, another—it was said, a last—opportunity of hearing Thalberg, that most perfect of executive artists; and admired, more enthusiastically than ever, his Andante, and his studies. Among the latter, a new one was introduced, in the form of a romance, supported, on repetition, by an odd, restless *tremolando*. Besides these, he played his *Don Juan fantasia*; and, with M. Benedict, his *fantasia* on the Druid chorus in 'Norma,' arranged for two pianofortes. The vocal part of the concert was largely and excellently made up of native talent. Madame F. Lablache, Miss Masson, and Miss Hawes, were each singing their best. Miss Clara Novello, too, afforded us the first opportunity of hearing her since her return from her triumphant progress through Germany. She has obviously returned, in her own estimation a *prima donna*—and, what is more, a Malibran. Her first song—the 'Prendi,' by De Beriot and Benedict—is one of the show-airs which were written expressly to display Malibran's magnificent compass of voice: Miss Novello attempts it, having no *contralto* notes whatsoever. Her other song was the 'Robert,' from Meyerbeer's opera. In both we were surprised by the old want of finished and flexible execution—the old absence of articulation. Her voice is improved, being now a legitimate *soprano* of the richest and sweetest quality, and more emphasis is laid by her, than formerly, on the parts of the music where passion should be expressed: but to make Miss Novello a singer of the first class, almost as much is wanting as was required before she left England. And the truth is here told without reserve, because there exists, apparently, not

the slightest suspicion of any such want—of any want whatsoever: a state fatal to future excellence.

Mr. Blagrove's party commenced their season on Thursday, and began their first concert by well performing Beethoven's quartett in G major, Op. 18. There is nothing in music sweeter without lusciousness, than the adagio to this quartett, broken so unexpectedly, but so happily, by the brisk, petulant *intermezzo*, which precedes the repetition of the theme. The four players are in their very best order, but still want *warming throughout*. The other instrumental pieces were, Mozart's quartett in A major, Op. 10; Onslow's charming quintett in C major; and Hummell's septett, in which Mrs. Anderson took the pianoforte part. The vocal music was excellent, because not only classical, but also unhackneyed. Madame Stockhausen and Miss Masson were the singers. The former executed a beautiful scene from Fesca's 'Cantemire,' which might have been written expressly to display her silvery voice, and her highly-finished style: the latter a picturesque song, by Lachner—'The Sea hath pearly treasures'—which has a horn obligato accompaniment. This, as well as his part in the septett, was so excellently played by Mr. Jarrett, that it is impossible to pass over in silence so valuable an acquisition to the ranks of our instrumentalists, as this gentleman—whose name is new to us.

COVENT GARDEN.—The representation of Mr. Leigh Hunt's play, 'A Legend of Florence,' concluded at too late an hour last week for us then to join in the congratulations, with which the Press unanimously greeted the success of the writer's first step in a new and perilous path. It must be gratifying to Mr. Hunt, whose political life was passed in "evil days," and who suffered in person, purse, and reputation, from the virulence of political antagonism, to find that no difference of opinion prevailed to diminish the sympathy with this effort to retrieve his fortunes. Mr. Hunt, in the early part of his career, attempted dramatic composition, as a young poet engaged in theatrical criticism would naturally do; but it only confirmed his own opinion, that the bent of his genius did not lie in this direction. The experience of a chequered life, however, may have deepened the channel of his thoughts, and his observation of the stage enabled him to give them this new direction. Those who are familiar with the essays, to which Charles Lamb thus pleasantly alludes—

"Poet, or Prose-man, Party-man, Translator, Hunt! thy best title still is *Indicator*!"

and in which playful wit and sprightly fancy, elegant scholarship and kindly sympathies, unite to adorn the most homely and trivial subjects, will be surprised, as we have been, at the degree of force manifested in this play. The highest point of dramatic art, the creative power of individualizing abstractions, that is, of developing an entire nature, acted upon by some master-passion, and unfolding its inmost characteristics by subtle strokes of invention—is only to be realized by the highest order of genius; but of the lesser skill of depicting characters sufficiently marked to distinguish the one from the other by speech and action, Mr. Hunt has displayed a considerable measure, though not so much as is desirable, or as he may yet attain. He has, however, produced a drama of romantic interest and beauty, in which the incidents of the Legend are presented on the stage with picturesque elegance; leaving an impression, like the recital of the story by an Italian improvisatore: in short, it is dramatic romance with a mixture of poetical comedy.

The Legend of Florence, on which the play is founded, is the familiar one of a wife, supposed dead, and borne to the tomb in a trance, awaking in the tomb and returning to her husband: who, terrified at what he mistakes for an apparition, refuses her admittance, when she seeks refuge with her lover. Such an occurrence is very possible in Italy, where the corpse is borne uncovered on a bier to the vault; numerous versions of the story are current in that country; indeed, there is a street in Florence called *Via della Morte* from this circumstance; still it is too much at variance with our notions of probability to form the turning point of a serious drama, independently of the questionable nature of the subject; neither is it calculated for dramatic treatment, since accident is equally influential with passion in deter-

mining the conduct of the parties. Mr. Hunt has overcome these difficulties as far, perhaps, as was practicable; he has invested the incident with the graces of poetry, thrown a halo of purity and meekness round the wife, and made the lover the most forbearing and delicate of enamoured swains; while he has endeavoured to excuse the eagerness with which the wife seizes a slight pretext to throw herself into the arms of her lover, by painting the husband as a moody, tyrannical man, who is exasperated at the very submissiveness of his wife. But the pains taken to reconcile the story to our English notions and habits, make it less probable, thus proving at once its unfitness. In Italy, where the marriage-tie melts like wax before the burning impulse of passion—and where, moreover, superstition might regard the divorce of the tomb as valid—there might be no scruples of conscience to prevent a virtuous woman from sympathizing with the lucky chance that enabled a loving pair to overleap the matrimonial bar to their mutual happiness. To get rid of the husband's claim was the difficulty, and that is managed by getting rid of him: he is killed in a broil that arises from the lady's friends interposing to prevent his taking her home, whither she had expressed her willingness to go, on hearing that he had repented of his harsh usage of her; a burst of exultation from him, however, induces her to enter a convent, from which, we may suppose, his death delivers her; though the happiness of the lovers is left to the imagination of the audience.

The character of *Agolanti*, the husband, is thus painted by the lady's friend *Da Riva* :—

In all, except a heart, and a black shade
Of superstition, he is man enough!
Has a bold blood, large brain, and liberal hand,
As far as the purse goes; albeit he likes
The going to be blown abroad with trumpets.
Nay, I won't swear he does not love his wife,
As well as a man of no sort of affection
Nor any domestic tenderness, can do so.
He highly approves her virtues, talents, beauty;
Thinks her the sweetest woman in all Florence,
Partly, because she is,—partly, because
She is his own, and glorifies his choice;
And therefore he does her the honour of making her
The representative and epitome
Of all he values.—public reputation,
Private obedience, delighted fondness,
Grateful return for his unambiguities,
Love without bounds, in short, for him,
And as she finds it difficult, poor soul,
To pay such reasonable demands at sight,
With the whole treasure of her heart and smiles,
The gentleman takes pity on—himself!
Looks on himself as the most unresponded to
And unaccountably ill-used bad temper
In Tuscany; rages at every word
And look she gives another; and fills the house
With miseries, which, because they ease himself,
And his vile spleen, he thinks her bound to suffer;
And then finds malice in her very suffering!

The nature of the differences between the married pair, and the character of the lady, *Ginevra*, may be inferred from this fragment of a matrimonial squabble :—

Agolanti. Oh, let all provocation
Take every brutish shape it can devise
To try endurance with; taunt it in failure,
Grind it in want, stoop it with family shames,
Make gross the name of mother, call it fool,
Pander, slave, coward, or whatsoever opprobrium
Makes the soul swoon within its rage, for want
Of some great answer, terrible as its wrong,
And it shall be as nothing to this miserable,
Mean, meek-voted, most malignant lie of lies,
This angel-mimicking non-provocation
From one too cold to enrage, and weak to tread on!
You never loved me once—You loved me not—
Never did—not when before the altar
With a mean coldness, a worldly-minded coldness
And lie on your lips, you took me for your husband,
Thinking to have a house, a purse, a liberty,
By, but not for the man you scorn'd to love!
Ginevra. I scorn'd you not—and knew not what scorn was
Being scarcely past a child, and knowing nothing
But trusting thoughts and innocent daily habits.
Oh, could you trust yourself—But why repeat
What still is thus repeated day by day?
Still ending with the question, "Why repeat?"

[Rising and moving about.]

You make the blood at last mount to my brain,
And tax me past endurance. What have I done,
Good God! what have I done, that I am thus
At the mercy of a mystery of tyranny,
Which from its victim demands every virtue,
And brings it none?

Agol. I thank you, madam, humbly.
That was sincere at least.

Gin. I beg your pardon.

Anger is ever excessive, and speaks wrong.

Agol. This is the gentle, patient, unprovoked,
And unprovoking, never-answering she!

Gin. Nay, nay, say on;—I do deserve it,—I
Who speak such evil of anger, and then am angry.
Yet you might pity me too, being like yourself
In fellowship there at least.

Agol. A taunt in friendliness!
Meekness's happiest condescension!

Gin. No.
So help me heaven!—I but spoke in consciousness
Of what was weak on both sides. There's a love
In that, would you but know it, and encourage it.
The consciousness of wrong, in wills not evil,
Brings charity. Be you but charitable,
And I am grateful, and we both shall learn.
Agol. I am conscious of no wrong in this dispute,
Nor when we dispute ever,—except the wrong
Done to myself by a will far more wilful,
Because less moved, and less ingenuous.
Let them get charity that show it.

These extracts will give an idea of the character of the dialogue, both in the graver and lighter passages. The blank verse is more colloquial in some parts, and less flowing in others than might have been desirable, but, in the delivery, this variety, and even the occasional ruggedness of the metre, produces a not unpleasant effect; the earnest and tender feeling elevating the sentiment to poetical dignity, without raising the language too much above the conversational level of well-bred persons in a state of passionate excitement. The tone that refined courtesy, generous and delicate conduct, and graceful manners, give to the intercourse of gentle natures, pervades the play; and even the churl partakes of the external nobleness with which habitual politeness dignifies power and selfishness: and the playful banter and caustic sarcasm that enliven the comic dialogue, give promise of a vein of elegant comedy, which we incline to think Mr. Hunt would be more likely to excel in, than in a subject of tragic pathos. His fancy, indeed, excels in the sunshine of gaiety and mirthful humour; and he has just the kind of sympathy with the graver side of humanity, that would supply the transparent shadows necessary to give relief to the lights of the picture; while his genial sentiment would infuse a life-blood into the impersonations of modes and peculiarities.

Miss Ellen Tree looks and speaks the gentle and patient *Ginevra* with expressive and affecting delicacy; she seems a suffering and submissive saint, from whom the words of complaint and remonstrance are wrung by the exquisite torture of her trial. Anderson, as her lover *Rondinelli*, gives vent to the lover's raptures, in the scene where he clasps the resuscitated lady in his arms, with energy and fervour; and throughout becomes the character well-bating a certain heaviness and formality which he cannot well avoid. Mr. Moore personated *Agolanti*, a character so essentially gloomy, that it required the force of Macready (for whom it was intended) to give it due effect; and though he fell short of the grandeur of manner, and strength of emotion, necessary to a full development of its stern features, he deserves every credit for the pains he took, not altogether unsuccessfully, to do justice to the part. Bartley as *Da Riva*, Miss Taylor as *Page*, and Miss Charles as a lively friend of *Ginevra*, are effective at least, which we cannot say of Mr. G. Vandenhoff, who made heavy work of a light-hearted soldier. The getting up of the play reflects great credit on the management: everything that good taste and care could contribute to give character and elegance to the stage appointments was accomplished: the scenery and costumes are not showy, but they are not the less appropriate. The success of the first night's representation was unequivocal; and the author was compelled to appear, as well as all the actors, to gratify the enthusiasm of the audience.

An "allegorical masque," in honour of the Queen's nuptials, entitled, 'The Fortunate Isles, or the Triumphs of Britannia,' was produced on Wednesday, in which all the Olympic deities are evoked to swell the pageant of England's greatness. The principal epochs in the annals of Britain, from the time when she first "arose from out the azure main," to the present hour, are typified in a series of pantomimic scenes and *tableaux vivans*, interspersed (we cannot say enlivened) with music, selected and arranged by Bishop. All that taste and ingenuity could devise, to give splendour and meaning to the spectacle, had been accomplished; but the audience did not appear to comprehend it.

DRURY LANE.—"An Emblematical Tribute" was also got up, on the spur of the moment, for the gratification of the free visitors on Monday, but the loyal intent was more praiseworthy than the execution.

OLYMPIC.—This theatre was opened last Saturday, with such a company as the manager was able to procure, for the performance of light and amusing trifles, somewhat in the style of his predecessor. In 'The Pink of Politeness'—a translation, by Mr. Selby, of a French vaudeville—Mr. R. Jones, from Edinburgh, plays a gentleman of the court of Louis XIV., whose tenacious observance of punctilio and the forms of courtly breeding constitutes the humour of the piece. With the skill and elaboration of a finished actor of the old school, Mr. Jones exhibited the ridiculous points of the character without appearing to burlesque them, or seeming aware of the ludicrous effect he produced—a rare excellence in this day, when our comedians, both high and low, make no scruple of destroying all stage-illusion, by letting the audience see that the player is trying to make them laugh at his grimaces, not at the absurdities of the assumed character. The costumes are superb and appropriate, and recalled the *ancien régime* of this theatre as well as of the French court.—Mrs. Glover and Miss Fitzwalter contributed all that was wanting of cordial vivacity and archness to a laughable farce, called 'A Familiar Friend,' in which Mrs. Glover personates a "village pest" with abundant significance of look and manner. Of the merits of the other performers we shall take occasion to speak as opportunity offers.

ADELPHI.—T. P. Cooke and Buckstone are playing here in what is termed a "nautical drama," entitled 'Poor Jack,' the farcical portion of which is far more successful than the sentimental, although Cooke is the sailor, and the heroine is cleverly played by Miss Fortescue.

MISCELLANEA

Black's Atlas.—We have received the following temperate letter from one of the highly respectable publishers and proprietors of this Atlas, and we very willingly give it publicity, although the argument appears to us wholly inconclusive :—

Edinburgh, January 29, 1840.

I am not so absurd as to make any remonstrance against the expressed opinion of the reviewer of any of our books in regard to their literary merits, but if groundless statements are made, injurious either to the character of the publication, or the publishers, independent of their literary merits, I think there is then some reason for complaint: and the notice of our Atlas in the last *Athenæum* (Jan. 25) is of this nature. The reviewer runs it down, upon the ground that the maps are said to be engraved by Sidney Hall; and as Sidney Hall has been buried eight or nine years ago, he ridicules our advertising his name as the engraver, and he endeavours to impress the readers with the idea that either the maps must be antiquated, or it must be inferred that we are practising a deception on the public by stating that the maps are engraved by one party, when they are engraved by another. Now you are probably aware that the engraving establishment, commenced by Sidney Hall, continues to the present time, and, I believe, with undiminished reputation for map-engraving, and the firm is unchanged; and you will find every map issued from it, down to yesterday, marked as engraved by Sidney Hall; and when we give the name of the engraver of our maps, it is impossible for us to give any other than that by which the engraver designates himself. Bell & Bradburne are said to be agents for the *Athenæum* in Edinburgh, but both Bell and Bradburne have been buried for many years, and the partners are Aitken & Walker, nevertheless the house is as respectable as ever. It was, in fact, with Sidney Hall, while alive, we engaged for the engraving of our Atlas; but to engrave so many maps must of necessity be the work of years, though all were revised and corrected lately, and they have cost us a large sum of money, and been prepared with great care. In the previous number of the *Athenæum* (Jan. 18), there was a critique of another geographical work of ours (the 'Abridgment of Malte Brun'), which, however, I would not have noticed, had I not been writing about the Atlas. The two notices are much in the same spirit—and, I presume, by the same writer. We are first charged with attempting to pre-occupy the ground chosen by Charles Knight, although our book has been preparing, and advertised from time to time, during the last five years; and the reviewer finds fault with it for some mistake about gravitation, halos, and the deflection of light. On such subjects, perhaps, we ought to say nothing: I may, however, state that the first part, said to be erroneous, is by Mr. Galloway, Vice-President of the Astronomical Society, and no mean authority on astronomical and mathematical subjects; and the others by Prof. Nicol, author of 'The Architecture of the Heavens,' &c.; and on some of them, at least, there may be some misconception on the part of the reviewer.

A. BLACK.

We cannot comprehend the force of this argument, and are quite content to leave the question to be decided by our readers; only observing that map-making and map-engraving are very different things. Map-engraving is merely mechanical; and it is probable that one half his journeymen were more skilful at it than Sidney Hall himself. The name of the "establishment" at which such works are engraved, is of no more consequence than the name of the

agents for the sale of the *Athenæum*. But map-making is a work of science, requiring considerable knowledge and experience—talents, like those of an artist or a writer, which are personal, and can neither be bequeathed nor inherited. When, therefore, we saw Mr. Sidney Hall's name figuring on the maps, we thought it our duty to apprise the public that he had been many years in his grave. As to our observations on the attempt to pre-occupy the ground chosen by Mr. Knight, they were merely casual; we had, some time before, announced a geographical work, of like character, as about to be issued by Mr. Knight, and came therefore to what appeared to be a natural—though, after Mr. Black's statement, we are satisfied an erroneous—conclusion. With regard to our observations on the theories of gravitation, halos, light, &c., we selected for comment the only original matter in the work, and we abide by our judgment.

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Berlin.—It is stated, in the Berlin papers, that the optician Petitpierre has lately taken three views with the Daguerreotype, which have brought the problem as to the possibility of imparting colour to the photographic pictures almost to a solution. The first represents the façade of the Academy, with the Lime-Tree Walk; the second the Hôtel de Rome; and the third the Lime-Tree Avenue itself, in full perspective. The local tone of the building, in the first of these views, is said to be given in all its truth, with the blue sky above, and the walk covered with snow,—and, in the last, the mistiness in which the trees and other objects are veiled, is faithfully rendered.

A buried Village.—We find, in the *Progrès du Pas de Calais*, the following account of the accidental discovery of a subterranean village in the commune of Hermies, near Bapaume, which we are inclined to receive with some hesitation, till we meet with a confirmation of the statement. It is therein said, that during the late heavy rains a great land-slip took place close to Hermies, into which some of the young men of the place had the hardihood to descend, by means of ladders tied together. What was their surprise, to find themselves, at a depth of thirty metres, in the midst of handsome streets, bordered on both sides by cells and chambers, which had evidently been once inhabited! The streets are of width sufficient to admit of a carriage passing; and the chambers, of various sizes, are also of various degrees of comfort and elegance. Some are flagged; and their number is said to amount to between twelve and fifteen hundred. Among the objects by which the explorers were more particularly struck, was an old stone tower, with a winding staircase. This they ascended, and, having beaten through the vaulted roof, discovered that it opened into the belfry of the church of Hermies.

Novel Illumination.—The beautiful and intense light produced by the combustion of lime was applied on Monday last to the purpose of illuminating the turrets of Vanburgh Castle, the residence of L. H. Potts, Esq., situated at the eastern entrance to Greenwich Park on the top of Maze Hill. We understand that this, which is generally known as the Drummond light, will be renewed at 9 o'clock every Monday evening of her Majesty's honeymoon, with various modifications, and directed towards London; so that our readers may contrast the intensity and penetrating power of different varieties of light. The effect of two lights used on this occasion, which were placed at some distance one above the other, was extremely brilliant and splendid; and although the moon shone brightly the lights were discernible at a considerable distance.—*Daily Papers.*

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